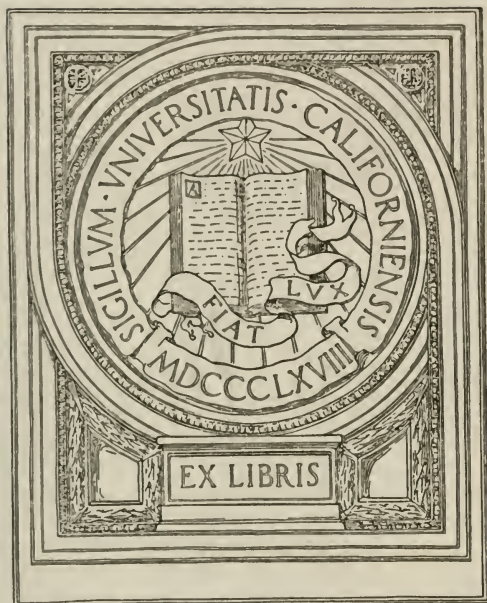


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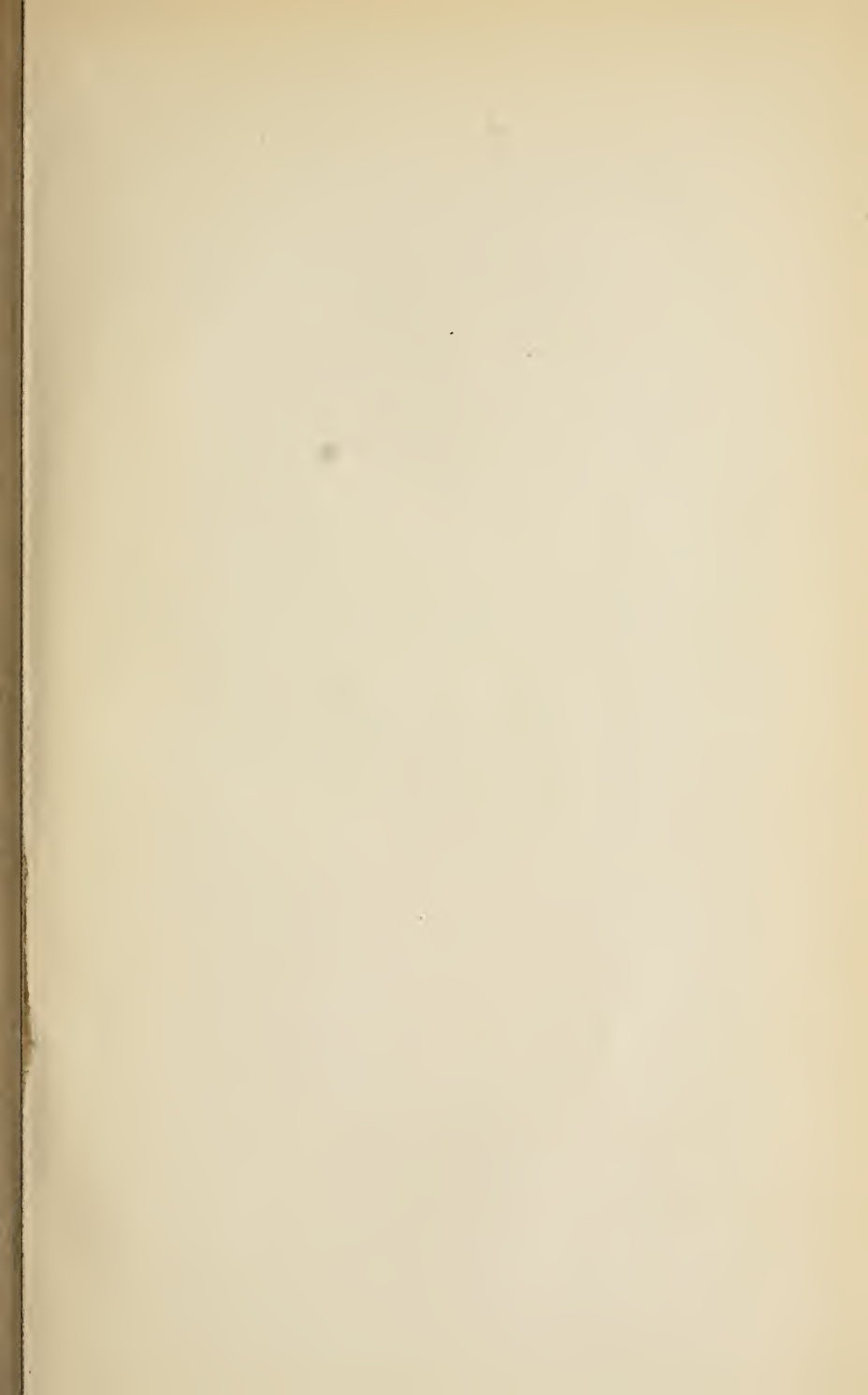
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Chaucer Society.

Publications. Second Series.
Lydgate's

Siege of Thebes.

EDITED

FROM ALL THE KNOWN MANUSCRIPTS AND THE TWO
OLDEST EDITIONS,

BY

AXEL ERDMANN, PH.D.

LATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH IN THE UNIVERSITY OF UPSALA.

PART I.—THE TEXT.

LONDON:

PUBLISHED FOR THE CHAUCER SOCIETY

BY KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH, TRÜBNER & CO., LTD.,

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The Chaucer Society.

Editor in Chief.—REV. PROFESSOR W. W. SKEAT, Litt.D., 2, Salisbury Villas, Cambridge.

Hon. Sec..—W. A. DALZIEL, Esq., 67, Victoria Road, Finsbury Park, London, N.

To do honour to CHAUCER, and to let the lovers and students of him see how far the best unprinted Manuscripts of his works differ from the printed texts, this Society was founded in 1868. There were then, and are still, many questions of metre, pronunciation, orthography, and etymology yet to be settled, for which more prints of Manuscripts were and are wanted; and it is hardly too much to say that every line of Chaucer contains points that need reconsideration. The founder (Dr Furnivall) began with *The Canterbury Tales*, and has given of them (in parallel columns in Royal 4to) six of the best theretofore unprinted Manuscripts known. Inasmuch as the parallel arrangement necessitated the alteration of the places of certain tales in some of the MSS, a print of each MS has been issued separately, following the order of its original. The first six MSS printed have been: the Ellesmere (by leave of the Earl of Ellesmere); the Hengwrt (by leave of W. W. E. Wynne, Esq.); the Camb. Univ. Libr., MS Gg. 4. 27; the Corpus, Oxford; the Petworth (by leave of Lord Leconfield); and the Lansdowne 851 (Brit. Mus.). The Harleian 7334 has followed, and the Cambridge Dd., completed by Egerton 2726 (the Haistwell MS.) *Specimens of all accessible MSS of the Tales* are now nearly completed, edited by the late Prof. Zupitza, Ph.D., and Prof. John Koch, Ph.D. Lady Cardigan will not allow her MS to be seen.

Of Chaucer's *Minor Poems*,—the MSS of which are generally later than the best MSS of the *Canterbury Tales*,—all the available MSS have been printed, so as to secure all the existing evidence for the true text.

Of *Troilus*, Parallel-Texts from the 6 best MSS have been issued (the Campsall MS also separately), and a 7th MS text of it with the englisht Boccaccio Comparison. *Autotypes* of most of the best Chaucer MSS have been published.

Dr. E. Flügel is editing the *Chaucer Concordance*.

The Society's publications are issued in two Series, of which the first contains the different texts of Chaucer's works; and the Second, such originals of and essays on these as can be procured, with other illustrative treatises, and Supplementary Tales.

The yearly subscription, which constitutes Membership, is 2 guineas, beginning with January 1, 1868, and ending with 1910. *All the Society's Publications can still be had*—except First Series XLVIII.

The Society's Hon. Secs. for America are, Prof. Kittredge, of Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass., for the North and East, and Prof. Bright, of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, for the South and West.

FIRST SERIES.

The Society's issue for 1868, in the **First Series**, is,

- I. The Prologue and Knight's Tale, of the *Canterbury Tales*, in 6 parallel Texts (from the 6 MSS named below), together with Tables, showing the Groups of the Tales, and their varying order in 38 MSS of the Tales, and in 5 old printed editions, and also *Specimens* from several MSS of the "Moveable Prologues" of the *Canterbury Tales*,—The Shipman's Prologue, and Franklin's Prologue,—when moved from their right places, and of the Substitutes for them. (The Six-Text, Part I.)
- II—VII. II. The Prologue and Knight's Tale from the Ellesmere MS, Part I; III. Hengwrt MS, 154, Pt I; IV. Cambridge MS Gg. 4. 27, Pt I; V. Corpus MS, Oxford, Pt I; VI. Petworth MS, Pt I; VII. Lansdowne MS, 851, Pt I. (separate issues of the Texts forming Part I of the Six-Text edition.)

The issue for 1869, in the **First Series**, is,

- VIII—XIII. VIII. The Miller's, Reeve's, and Cook's Tales: Ellesmere MS, Part II; IX. Hengwrt MS, Pt II; X. Cambridge MS, Pt II; XI. Corpus MS, Pt II; XII. Petworth MS, Pt II; XIII. Lansdowne MS, Pt II, with an Appendix of "Gamelyn" from six MSS.

(separate issues of the Texts forming the Six-Text, Part II, No. XIV.)

The issue for 1870, in the **First Series**, is,

- XIV. The Miller's, Reeve's, and Cook's Tales, with an Appendix of the Spurious Tale of Gamelyn, in 6 parallel Texts. (Six-Text, Part II.)

The issue for 1871, in the **First Series**, is,

- XV. The Man of Law's, Shipman's, and Prioress's Tales, with Chaucer's own Tale of Sir Thopas, in 6 parallel Texts from the MSS above named, and 10 coloured drawings of Tellers of Tales, after the originals in the Ellesmere MS. (Six-Text, Part III.)
- XVI. The Man of Law's Tale, from the Ellesmere MS. Part III.
- XVII. " " " " " " Cambridge MS. Part III.
- XVIII. " " " " " " Corpus MS. Part III.
- XIX. The Shipman's, Prioress's, and Man of Law's Tales, from the Petworth MS. Part III.

- XX. The Man of Law's Tale, from the Lansdowne MS. Part III.
(each with woodcuts of fourteen drawings of Tellers of Tales in the Ellesmere MS.)
- XXI. A Parallel-Text edition of Chaucer's Minor Poems, Part I:—1. 'The Dethe of Blaunche the Duchesse,' from Thynne's ed. of 1532, the Fairfax MS 16, and Tanner MS 346; 2. 'the Complaynt to Pitee,' 3. 'the Parlament of Foules,' and 4. 'the Complaynt of Mars,' each from six MSS.
- XXII. Supplementary Parallel-Texts of Chaucer's Minor Poems, Part I, containing 1. 'The Parlament of Foules,' from three MSS. [Reprinted in LIX, First Series.]
- XXIII. Odd Texts of Chaucer's Minor Poems, Part I, containing 1. two MS fragments of 'The Parlament of Foules;' 2. the two differing versions of 'The Prologue to the Legende of Good Women,' arranged so as to show their differences; 3. an Appendix of Poems attributed to Chaucer, 1. 'The Balade of Pitee by Chauciars;' 11. 'The Cronycle made by Chaucer,' both from MSS written by Shirley, Chaucer's contemporary.
- XXIV. A One-Text Print of Chaucer's Minor Poems, being the best Text from the Parallel-Text Edition, Part I, containing, I. The Dethe of Blaunche the Duchesse, II. The Complaynt to Pitee, III. The Parlament of Foules, IV. The Complaynt of Mars, V. The ABC, with its original from De DeGuilleville's *Pelerinage de la Vie humaine* (edited from the best Paris MSS by M. Paul Meyer).

The issue for 1872, in the **First Series**, is,

- XXV. Chaucer's Tale of Melibe, the Monk's, Nun's-Priest's, Doctor's, Pardoner's, Wife of Bath's, Friar's, and Summoner's Tales, in 6 parallel Texts from the MSS above named, with the remaining 13 coloured drawings of Tellers of Tales, after the originals in the Ellesmere MS, and with Specimens of the Variations of 30 MSS in the Doctor-Pardoner Link. (Six-Text, Part IV.)
- XXVI. The Wife's, Friar's, and Summoner's Tales, from the Ellesmere MS, with 9 woodcuts of Tale-Tellers. (Part IV.)
- XXVII. The Wife's, Friar's, Summoner's, Monk's, and Nun's-Priest's Tales, from the Hengwrt MS, with 23 woodcuts of the Tellers of the Tales. (Part III.)
- XXVIII. The Wife's, Friar's, and Summoner's Tales, from the Cambridge MS, with 9 woodcuts of Tale-Tellers. (Part IV.)
- XXIX. A Treatise on the Astrolabe, addressed to his son Lowys, in 1391 A.D., by Geoffrey Chaucer, edited by the Rev. Prof. Walter W. Skeat, M.A.

The issue for 1873, in the **First Series**, is,

- XXX. The Six-Text Canterbury Tales, Part V, containing the Clerk's and Merchant's Tales.

The issue for 1874, in the **First Series**, is,

- XXXI. The Six-Text, Part VI, containing the Squire's and Franklin's Tales
- XXXII. The Clerk's, Merchant's, Squire's, Franklin's, Doctor's, Pardoner's, Shipman's, Prioress's Tales, Sir Thopas, Melibeus, Monk's, Nun's-Priest's, Second Nun's Tales, Ellesmere MS, Part V.
- XXXIII. The Clerk's, Merchant's, Squire's, Franklin's, Doctor's, Pardoner's, Shipman's, Prioress's Tales, Sir Thopas, Melibeus, Monk's, Nun's-Priest's Second Nun's Tales, Cambridge MS, Part V.
- XXXIV. Squire's, Wife of Bath's, Friar's, Summoner's, Clerk's, Merchant's, Franklin's Tales, Corpus MS, Part IV.
- XXXV. Squire's, Merchant's, Wife of Bath's, Friar's, Summoner's, Clerk's, Franklin's, Second Nun's Tales, Petworth MS, Part IV.
- XXXVI. Squire's, Wife of Bath's, Friar's, Summoner's, Clerk's, Merchant's, Franklin's Tales, Lansdowne MS, Part IV.

The issue for 1875, in the **First Series**, is,

- XXXVII. The Six-Text, Part VII, the Second Nun's, Canon's-Yeoman's, and Manciple's Tales, with the Blank-Parson Link
- XXXVIII. Second Nun's, Canon's-Yeoman's, Manciple's Tales, Ellesmere MS, Part VI.
- XXXIX. Manciple's, Man of Law's, Squire's, Merchant's, Franklin's, Second Nun's, Clerk's, Doctor's, Pardoner's, Shipman's, Prioress's Tales, Sir Thopas, Melibeus Tales, Hengwrt MS, Part IV.
- XL. Second Nun's, Canon's-Yeoman's, Manciple's Tales, Cambridge MS, Part VI.
- XLI. Second Nun's, Canon's-Yeoman's, Doctor's, Pardoner's, Shipman's, Prioress's Tales, Sir Thopas, Melibeus, Monk's, Nun's-Priest's, Manciple's Tales, Corpus MS, Part V.
- XLII. Second Nun's, Canon's-Yeoman's, Doctor's, Pardoner's Tales, Sir Thopas, Melibeus, Monk's, Nun's-Priest's, Manciple's Tales, Petworth MS, Part V.
- XLIII. Second Nun's, Canon's-Yeoman's, Doctor's, Pardoner's, Shipman's, Prioress's Tales, Sir Thopas, Melibeus, Monk's, Nun's-Priest's, Manciple's Tales, Lansdowne MS, Part V.

- XLIV. A detailed Comparison of the *Troilus and Criseyde* with Boccaccio's *Filosttrato*, with a Translation of all Passages used by Chaucer, and an Abstract of the Parts not used, by W. Michael Rossetti, Esq., and with a print of the *Troilus* from the Harleian MS 3943. Part I.
- XLV. Rymer-Index to the Ellesmere MS of the Canterbury Tales, by Henry Cromie, Esq., M.A. In 8vo for the separate Ellesmere MS.
- XLVI. Rymer-Index to the Ellesmere MS, by Henry Cromie, Esq., M.A. In Royal 4to for the *Six-Text*.
- XLVII. Notes and Corrections for the 8vo Rymer-Index, by H. Cromie, Esq., M.A. The issue for 1876, in the **First Series**, is,
- XLVIII. Autotype Specimens of the Chief Chaucer MSS, Part I, 16 Autotypes, with a Note on the MSS, by Dr. F. J. Furnivall.
- The issue for 1877, in the **First Series**, is,
- XLIX. The *Six-Text*, Part VIII, containing the Parson's Tale, with a Table of its Contents; and Mr Cromie's Notes and Corrections for the 4to Rymer-Index.
- L—LV. L. The Parson's Tale, Ellesmere MS, Part VII; LI. Hengwrt MS, Part V; LII. Cambridge MS, Part VII; LIII. Corpus MS, Part VI; LIV. Petworth MS, Part VI; LV. Lansdowne MS, Part VI.
- The issue for 1878, in the **First Series**, is,
- LVI. Autotype Specimens of the Chief Chaucer MSS, Part II: 9 from the Cambridge MS Gg. 4. 27, and 1 from Lord Leconfield's MS.
- LVII. A Parallel-Text edition of Chaucer's Minor Poems, Part II:—5. The *A B C*, from 6 MSS; 6. The *Mother of God*, from 3 MSS; 7. *Anelida and Arcyte*, from 5 MSS and Caxton's print; 8. The *Former Age*, from 2 MSS (with the Latin original, and Chaucer's prose Englishing); 9. To his *Scrivener* from Shirley's MS and Stowe's print; 10. The *House of Fame*, from 2 MSS and Caxton's and Thynne's prints.
- The issue for 1879, in the **First Series**, is,
- LVIII. A Parallel-Text edition of Chaucer's Minor Poems, Part III, completing the *Parallel-Text*, and containing, 11. *The Legend of Good Women* from 5 MSS and Thynne's print; 12. *Truth* from 6 MSS; 13. *The Complaynt of Venus* from 6 MSS; 14. *The Envoy to Scogan* from 3 MSS; 15. *Marriage*, or *The Envoy to Bukton*, from 1 MS and Notary's and Thynne's prints; 16. *Gentillesse* from 6 MSS; 17. *Proverbs* from 3 MSS; 18. *Stedfastness* from 6 MSS; 19. *Fortune* from 6 MSS; 20. *Chaucer to his empty Purse*, from 6 MSS.
- The issue for 1880, in the **First Series**, is,
- LIX. Supplementary Parallel-Texts of Chaucer's Minor Poems, Part II:—1a. The *Parlament of Foules* from 3 MSS; 2. The *A B C* from 6 MSS; 3. *Anelida and Arcyte* from 6 MSS; 4. *The Legend of Good Women*, in whole or part from 4 MSS; 5. The *Complaint of Mars* from 3 MSS; 6. *Truth* from 6 MSS; 7. *The Complaynt of Venus* from 3 MSS; 8. *Gentillesse* from 3 MSS; 9. *Lack of Stedfastness* from Thynne's print and 2 MSS; 10. *Fortune* from 2 MSS and Caxton's print.
- LX. Odd-Texts of Chaucer's Minor Poems, Part II, containing, 3. The *A B C*, from 2 MSS; 4. The *House of Fame*, from the Pepys' MS, &c.; 5. *The Legend of Good Women* from 3 MSS; 6. *The Dethe of Blanche the Duchesse* from 1 MS; 7. *The Complaint to Pity* from 2 MSS; 8. *The Parlament of Foules* from 1 MS; 9. *Truth* from 3 MSS; 10. *Envoy to Scogan* from 1 MS; 11. *Purse* from 1 MS.
- LXI. A One-Text Print of Chaucer's Minor Poems, Part II, containing, VI. *Mother of God*; VII. *Anelida*; VIII. *The Former Age*; IX. *Adam Scrivener*; X. *The House of Fame*; XI. *Legende*; XII. *Truth*; XIII. *Venus*; XIV. *Scogan*; XV. *Marriage*; XVI. *Gentillesse*; XVII. *Proverbs*; XVIII. *Stedfastness*; XIX. *Fortune*; XX. *Purse*.
- LXII. Autotype Specimens of the chief Chaucer MSS. Part III: 2 from Henry V's MS of the *Troilus*, when he was Prince of Wales (now Mr Bacon Frank's); 1 from Shirley's MS of the *A B C* at Sion Coll.
- The issue for 1881, in the **First Series**, is,
- LXIII. A Parallel-Text edition of Chaucer's *Troilus & Criseyde* from the Campsall MS, b. 1415 A.D. (written for Henry V when Prince of Wales), Harleian MS. 2280, and Cambr. Univ. Libr. Gg. 4. 27. Part I. Books 1 and 2.
- The issue for 1882, in the **First Series**, is,
- LXIV. A Parallel-Text edition of Chaucer's *Troilus & Criseyde* from the Campsall MS, before 1415 A.D. (written for Henry V when Prince of Wales), Harleian MS 2280, and Cambr. Univ. Libr. Gg. 4. 27. Part II. Books 3, 4, 5.
- The issue for 1883, in the **First Series**, is,
- LXV. Part II of Mr W. M. Rossetti's Comparison of Chaucer's *Troilus and Criseyde* with Boccaccio's *Filosttrato*, completing the work.
- The issue for 1884, in the **First Series**, is to be,
- LXVI—LXXI. 6 Appendixes to the 6 MSS of the *Six-Text*, with Wood-cuts and colored Lithographs of 6 Tellers of Tales and of 6 emblematical Figures from the Cambridge Univ. MS, Gg. 4. 27, &c., and Process Engravings, for the

Ellesmere MS Part, of the 23 Ellesmere MS Miniatures. The Hengwrt MS, Part VI, contains The Canon's-Yeoman's Tale from the Lichfield MS.

- LXXII. The Six-Text, Part IX, with colored Lithographs of 6 Tellers of Tales and 6 emblematical Figures from the Cambridge Unvers. MS Gg.4.27; Forewords, Title-pages for the three volumes, &c.; and Prof. Hiram Corson's Index to the Subjects and Names of *The Canterbury Tales*.

The issue for 1885, in the **First Series**, is,

- LXXIII. The Harleian MS 7334 of *The Canterbury Tales*, with Woodcuts of 23 Tellers of Tales from the Ellesmere MS, &c.

- LXXIV. Autotype Specimens of the chief Chaucer MSS. Pt IV. The Ellesmere.

The issue for 1886, in the **First Series**, is,

- LXXV. Chaucer's *Boece* from the Cambridge University MS. li. 3. 21.

- LXXVI. Chaucer's *Boece* from the Additional MS 10.340 in the British Museum, as edited by the Rev. Dr. R. Morris for the E. E. Text Soc. in 1868.

- LXXVII. More Odd Texts of Chaucer's Minor Poems, containing, 1. *The Complainte to Pite*; 2. *The Complaint of the Anelida and Arveite*; 3. *Truth*; 4. *Lack of Stedfastness*; 5. *Fortune*; 6. *Purse*. Appendix: 1. *The Balade of Pite*. II. *Roundels (Mercilesse Beaute)*.

The issue for 1887, in the **First Series**, is,

- LXXVIII. A *Ryme-Index to Chaucer's Minor Poems*, by Miss Isabel Marshall and Miss Lela Porter, in Royal 4to for the *Parallel-Text*.

The issue for 1888, in the **First Series**, is,

- LXXIX. A One-Text Print of Chaucer's *Troilus*, from the Campsall MS bef. 1415 A.D.

The issue for 1889, in the **First Series**, is,

- LXXX. A *Ryme-Index to Chaucer's Minor Poems*, by Miss Isabel Marshall and Miss Lela Porter, in 8vo for the One-Text print of the *Minor Poems*.

The issue for 1890, in the **First Series**, is,

- LXXXI. *Parallel-Text Specimens of all accessible unprinted Chaucer MSS: The Pardoner's Prolog and Tale*, edited by Prof. Zupitza, Ph.D. Part I, from 7 MSS: Cambridge Dd.4.24, Christ-Church, Additional 5140, Devonshire, Haistwell (or Egerton 3726), Ingilby, Northumberland: the Dd. Group.

- LXXXII. *The Romaunt of the Rose*, from Thynne's print, 1532, ed. F. J. Furnivall. [Issued in 1911.]

The issue for 1891, in the **First Series**, is,

- LXXXIII. A Parallel text of *The Romaunt of the Rose* (of which the first 1705 lines are most probably Chaucer's), from the unique MS at Glasgow, and its French original, *Le Roman de la Rose*, edited by Dr Max Kaluza. Part I.

- LXXXIV. A Rime-Index to Chaucer's *Troilus*, by Prof. Skeat, Litt.D.

The issue for 1892, in the **First Series**, is,

- LXXXV. *Parallel-Text Specimens of all accessible unprinted Chaucer MSS: The Pardoner's Prolog and Tale*, edited by Prof. Zupitza, Ph.D. Part II, from 10 MSS.

The issue for 1893, in the **First Series**, is,

- LXXXVI. *Parallel-Text Specimens of all accessible unprinted Chaucer MSS: The Pardoner's Prolog and Tale*, edited by Prof. Zupitza, Ph.D. Part III, from 6 MSS.

The issue for 1894, in the **First Series**, is,

- LXXXVII. A Parallel-Text of 3 more MSS of Chaucer's *Troilus*, the St. John's and Corpus, Cambridge, and Harl. 1239. Brit. Mus., put forth by Dr. F. J. Furnivall. Part I, with a Note by G. C. Macaulay, M.A.

The issue for 1895, in the **First Series**, is,

- LXXXVIII. A Parallel-Text of 3 more MSS of Chaucer's *Troilus*, Part II.

The issue for 1896, in the **First Series**, will be,

- LXXXIX. Prof. McCormick's Introduction to Chaucer's *Troilus*, discussing its MSS, its Text, its Metre and Grammar: 2nd Parallel-Texts, Part III.

The issue for 1897, in the **First Series**, is,

- XC. *Parallel-Text Specimens of all accessible unprinted MSS: The Pardoner's Prolog and Tale*, Part IV, from 17 MSS, edited by the late Prof. Zupitza, Ph.D., and Prof. John Koch, Ph.D.

The issue for 1898, in the **First Series**, is,

- XCI. *Parallel-Text Specimens*, Part V: *The Pardoner's Prolog and Tale*, a Six-Text, from 3 MSS and 3 black-letters, edited by Prof. John Koch, Ph.D., and Dr. F. J. Furnivall.

The issue for 1899, in the **First Series**, is,

- XCII. *Parallel-Text Specimens*, Part VI: *The Clerk's Tale*, a Six-Text Print from 6 MSS not containing *The Pardoner's Tale*, put forth by Dr. F. J. Furnivall.

The issue for 1900, in the **First Series**, is,

- XCIII. *Parallel-Text Specimens*, Part VII: *The Clerk's Tale* from the Phillipps MS 8299 and the Longleat MS, put forth by Dr. F. J. Furnivall.

- XCIV. *Parallel-Text Specimens*, Part VIII: *The Pardoner's Prolog and Tale* from the Hodson MS 39, put forth by Dr. F. J. Furnivall with an Introduction by Prof. John Koch, Ph.D.

The issue for 1901, in the **First Series**, is,
XCV. The Cambridge MS Dd. 4. 24. of the *Canterbury Tales*, completed by the Egerton MS 2726 (the Haistwell MS), ed. F. J. Furnivall. Part I.

The issue for 1902, in the **First Series**, is,
XCVI. The Cambridge MS Dd. 4. 24. of the *Canterbury Tales*, completed by the Egerton MS 2726 (the Haistwell MS), ed. F. J. Furnivall. Part II.

XCVII. *Parallel-Text Specimens*, Part IX: An Introduction to the eight Specimens of Chaucer's *Clerk's Tale*, by Prof. Dr. John Koch.

The issue for 1907, in the **First Series** (none in 1903-6) will probably be,
XCVIII. *Specimen-Extracts from nine unprinted MSS of Chaucer's Troilus*, with an Introduction on the MSS, Metre and Grammar of the Poem, by Dr. W. H. McCormick. [At Press.]

SECOND SERIES.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for 1868 is,

1. *Early English Pronunciation*, with especial reference to Shakspeare and Chaucer, by Alexander J. Ellis, Esq., F.R.S. Part I. This work includes an amalgamation of Prof. F. J. Child's two Papers on the use of the final *-e* by Chaucer (in T. Wright's ed. of *The Canterbury Tales*) and by Gower (in Dr Pauli's ed. of the *Confessio Amantis*).

2. *Essays on Chaucer, his Words and Works*, Part I.: 1. Prof. Ebert's Review of Sandras's *Etude sur Chaucer*, translated by J. W. van Rees Hoets, M.A.; 2. A 13th-century Latin Treatise on the *Chilindre* (of the *Shipman's Tale*), edited by Mr. E. Brock.

3. A Temporary Preface to the Society's Six-Text edition of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, Part I, attempting to show the right Order of the Tales, and the Days and Stages of the Pilgrimage, &c. &c., by F. J. Furnivall, Esq., M.A.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for 1869 is,

4. *Early English Pronunciation*, with especial reference to Shakspeare and Chaucer, by Alexander J. Ellis, Esq., F.R.S. Part II.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for 1870 is,

5. *Early English Pronunciation*, with especial reference to Shakspeare and Chaucer, by Alexander J. Ellis, Esq., F.R.S. Part III.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for 1871 is.

6. *Trial-Forewords to my Parallel-Text edition of Chaucer's Minor Poems* for the Chaucer Society (with a try to set Chaucer's Works in their right order of Time), by Fredk. J. Furnivall. Part I.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for 1872 is,

7. *Originals and Analogues of some of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales*, Part I. 1. The original of the *Man of Law's Tale* of Constance, from the French Chronicle of Nicholas Trivet, Arundel MS 56, ab. 1340 A.D., collated with the later copy, ab. 1400, in the National Library at Stockholm; copied and edited, with a translation, by Mr. Edmund Brock. 2. The Tale of "Merelaus the Emperor," english from the *Gesta Romanorum* by Thomas Hoccleve, in Harl. MS 7333; and 3. Part of Matthew Paris's *Vita Offie Primi*, both stories illustrating incidents in the *Man of Law's Tale*. 4. Two French Fabliaux like the *Reeve's Tale*. 5. Two Latin Stories like the *Friar's Tale*.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for 1873 is,

8. Albertano of Brescia's *Liber Consilii et Consolationis*, A.D. 1246 (the Latin source of the French original of Chaucer's *Melibe*), edited from the MSS, by Dr. Thor Sundby.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for 1874 is,

9. *Essays on Chaucer, his Words and Works*, Part II.: 3. John of Hoveden's *Practica Chilindri*, edited from the MS. with a translation, by Mr. E. Brock. 4. Chaucer's use of the final *-e*, by Joseph Payne, Esq. 5. Mrs. E. Barrett-Browning on Chaucer: being those parts of her review of the *Book of the Poets*, 1842, which relate to him; here reprinted by leave of Mr Robert Browning. 6. Professor Bernhard ten Brink's critical edition of Chaucer's *Compleygute to Pite*.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for 1875 is,

10. *Originals and Analogues of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales*, Part II. 6. Alphonso of Lincoln, a Story like the *Prioress's Tale*. 7. How Reynard caught Chanticleer, the source of the *Nun's-Priest's Tale*. 8. Two Italian Stories, and a Latin one, like the *Pardoner's Tale*. 9. The Tale of the Priest's Bladder, a story like the *Summoner's Tale*, being 'Li dis de le Vescie a Prestre,' par Jakes de Basiw. 10. Petrarch's Latin Tale of Griseldis (with Boccaccio's Story from which it was re-told), the original of the *Clerk's Tale*. 11. Five Versions of a Pear-tree Story like that in the *Merchant's Tale*. 12. Four Versions of The Life of Saint Cecilia, the original of the *Second Nun's Tale*. Edited by F. J. Furnivall.

11. *Early English Pronunciation*, with especial reference to Shakspeare and Chaucer, by Alexander J. Ellis, Esq., F.R.S. Part IV.

12. *Life-Records of Chaucer*, Part I, The Robberies of Chaucer by Richard Breckley and others at Westminster, and at Hatcham, Surrey, on Tuesday, Sept. 6, 1390, with some Account of the Robbers, from the Enrolments in the Public Record Office, by Walford D. Selby, Esq., of the Public Record Office.



Lydgate's Siege of Thebes.



Lydgate's
Siege of Thebes.

EDITED

FROM ALL THE KNOWN MANUSCRIPTS AND THE TWO
OLDEST EDITIONS,

BY

AXEL ERDMANN, PH.D.

LATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH IN THE UNIVERSITY OF UPSALA.

UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

PART I.—THE TEXT.

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TEMPORARY PREFACE.

§ 1. THE title of the poem. In the colophons of the MSS. and oldest editions we find "Here endeth the destruccioun of Thebes" or "Here endeth the Sege of Thebes." But in later times the poem has most often been spoken of as "The Story of Thebes." In the text Lydgate repeatedly refers to "(the) story"; but here, with a few exceptions, by "(the) story" he means his Old French original. His own poem he generally mentions as "my tale." As a matter of fact, the question of the title has been decided by Lydgate himself, who in his Falls of Princes calls our poem "The Sege of Thebes."

Al to declare / me semyth it is no nede,
For in the Sege of Thebes ye may Rede
The stoory hool / and maad ther meneyoun, etc.

(Mus. Brit. Bibl. Harl. 1766, fol. 49 back.)

§ 2. The Siege of Thebes was written by Lydgate to form an additional link in the famous series of the Canterbury Tales composed by Chaucer. He represents himself as falling in with the pilgrims at their inn in Canterbury, when in mid-April he comes to the town to perform his vow to St. Thomas for recovery from an illness. He is received in the hall of the inn by the host of the Tabard and invited to join the company of pilgrims in their return journey to London. At sunrise on the following morning they all start off, and before they have ridden a bow-shot from Canterbury the host turns to Lydgate and asks him to tell some merry tale. Lydgate obeys, and "My tale I gan anon as 3e shal here" (l. 176). The prologue is, of course, addressed to the readers of the poem. In the tale itself Lydgate tries, by occasional references (ll. 182, 322 sq., 1043 sq., 1047 sq., cf. also 4522 sq.), to keep alive the impression that he is speaking to the pilgrims *en route*.

There is no doubt that the Prologue was the first portion written of the poem. And evidently Lydgate keenly enjoys his idea of composing an additional Canterbury Tale, and thus, as it were, taking up and continuing the unfinished work of his admired master. The

palpable anachronism involved in this idea did not deter him, and it would not, I suppose, much strike the general reader, nor does it, indeed, essentially diminish the quaint interest of his conceit. But it is obvious that Lydgate, who was about thirty at the time of Chaucer's death, could not at "nyȝ fyfty ȝere of age" (l. 93) have found still remaining at Canterbury the same company of pilgrims with which Chaucer had come there.

§ 3. The poem has 4716 lines. The prologue (ll. 1-176), see § 2. The first part (ll. 177-1046) tells the story of Edippus and Iocasta, the second part (ll. 1047-2552) the disputes of Ethiocles and Polymytes about the supremacy in Thebes, the third part (ll. 2553-4716) the siege and destruction of Thebes.

§ 4. The principal source of Lydgate's *Thebes*¹ is an Old French prose romance, derived from the Old French poem *Roman de Thebes*. No known version of this prose romance agrees in all particulars with that used by Lydgate. But the version first printed 1500 and reprinted 1858 in the "*Collection Silvestre*," with the title "*Sensuyt le Roman de edipus fils du roy Layus*" (RE), comes very near to Lydgate's original. They differ, however, in some details. In most of these details Lydgate's original corresponded with the somewhat later version of the prose romance represented by that "*Hystoire de Thebes*" (HT) which is found inserted into a late 15th-century Old French translation, with numerous additions, of Orosius' well-known *History of the World*. Thus the apparently lost version that formed the basis of Lydgate's *Thebes* must have held an intermediate position between the two versions just mentioned. But it was decidedly much more closely allied to RE than to HT.

From his Old French source Lydgate has taken about two-thirds of his poem. More than a fourth he has drawn from his own creative imagination or from his general store of knowledge. The rest of the poem, about the twentieth part of the whole, comes partly from the Bible, but principally from such authors as Seneca, Martianus de Capella, Boccaccio, Chaucer.

§ 5. Lydgate treats his original with perfect freedom as regards form, recasting the expressions, enlarging or shortening the tale, not infrequently omitting unimportant particulars. In a few cases Lydgate has left out points the poetic beauty of which would certainly

¹ See Koepfel, *Lydgate's Story of Thebes. Eine Quellenuntersuchung*. München, 1884. Constans, *Légende d'Oedipe*. Paris, 1881; and *Roman de Thebes*, vol. ii. Paris, 1890.

have caught at once the attention of Chaucer. But on the whole it may be said that everything the poem possesses of poetic charm, it owes to Lydgate's work.

The hero of parts II and III is Tydeus, on whom Lydgate lavishes his highest praise. In painting Tydeus' character and extolling his exploits, the author had, no doubt, in his mind's eye England's youthful hero, King Henry V. Here and there in the poem allusions to contemporary political events may be traced (see for inst. § 6).

§ 6. Lydgate probably began his *Thebes* in the latter part of 1420. It was finished before the death of Henry V (August 31, 1422).¹ And it seems safe to assume that the poem had been completed so long before that date that copies of it had been made and circulated. For if it had still been in its author's hands when he learnt the irreparable loss his country had suffered, he would certainly have recast the end of it. In writing ll. 4690-4703, and especially the last lines of this passage: "And charitè . . . shal her bryghte bemes sprede . . . in dyuers naciouns Forto reforme atwixe Regiouns Pees and quyet, concord and vnyte," Lydgate clearly had in view certain terms of the treaty of Troyes concluded in May 1420. The 24th paragraph of this treaty says (see Rymer's *Foedera*, Tom. ix, p. 901):

Item, ut Concordia, Pax, & Tranquillitas inter prædicta Franciæ & Angliæ Regna perpetuo futuris temporibus observentur, & obvietur Occasionibus & Principiis, ex quibus inter eadem Regna, quod absit, Debata, Dissensiones seu Discordiæ futuris possent temporibus exoriri, Concordatum est, quod dictus filius noster Rex Henricus laborabit, . . . ambo Coronæ, scilicet Franciæ et Angliæ, perpetuo futuris temporibus commanebunt & erunt in unâ & eadem Personâ, viz. suâ, etc.

A comparison of the words of this paragraph with l. 4703 shows at once whence have sprung Lydgate's "Pees and quyet, concord and vnyte." See also the 25th paragraph. Cf. *Troy Book*, v, 3999-3442. The whole passage l. 4690 sq. of *Thebes* resounds with a jubilant note of hopefulness, and could not possibly have been written or issued after England's hopes of a triumphant peace had been so suddenly blighted by the King's death.

§ 7. The *Siege of Thebes* is written in heroic couplets. It has long been held up as a specimen of unusually bad metre. This censure seemed to be justified by the character—very unsatisfactory

¹ Cf. Koeppl l. c., and Schick, *Lydgate's Temple of Glas*, 1891. Also H. Bergen, *The MSS. and Prints of Lydgate's Troy Book*. Bungay, Chaucer Press, 1906.

from a metrical point of view—of the old printed texts. The present edition, the text of which is based on the best MS. collated with all the other known MSS., will prove the censure to be unmerited. The five-beat iambic lines of *Thebes* present the metrical traits peculiar to Lydgate's heroic verse.

§ 8. The great number of MSS. still preserved bears evidence of the popularity once enjoyed by our poem. There are, as far as is now known, 21 MSS. of Lydgate's *Thebes* in the public and private libraries of England. To this number are to be added the old edition of 1500 (?) and 1561, each of which represents a separate MS. The best MSS. are the Arundel 119 (Brit. Mus.), the Bodley 776, the Additional 18632 (Brit. Mus.), and the MS. belonging to Lord Mostyn, designated by Ar. Bo. Ad₁. M. in the *variæ lectiones* given at the foot of the pages. As basis of the present edition the Arundel MS. has been taken, every deviation from it being marked by asterisks in the text, or, in the case of pause-bars, only mentioned among the vv. ll. The Arundel MS. 119 is a small folio, $10\frac{7}{8} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ English inches, on vellum, bound in calf, and contains only the complete text of our poem. It has 80 leaves. The text is written in single columns, and ends on leaf 79 front.

AXEL ERDMANN.

Upsala, April 6, 1911.

LIST OF THE MANUSCRIPTS AND OLDEST EDITIONS.

- Ad₁. = Brit. Mus. Additional 18632.
- Ad₂. = Brit. Mus. Additional 5140.
- Ap. = Brit. Mus. Cotton. Appendix XXVII.
- Ar. = Brit. Mus. Arundel 119.
- Ba. = Marquis of Bath's MS. 257 (Longleat).
- Bo. = Bodley MS. 776.
- C. = Cambridge University Library, Addit. 3137.
- Di. = Bodl. Library, Digby 230.
- Du. = Prince Frederick Duleep Singh's MS. (Old Buckenham Hall).
- E₁. = Wynken de Worde's edition (1500 ?) 8vo.
- E₂. = in William Thynne's fol. edition 1561 of the works of Chaucer.
- G. = Mr. J. H. Gurney's MS. (Keswick Hall).
- I. = The late Sir H. Ingilby's MS. (Ripley Castle), now belonging to Mr. Lawrence Hodson (Compton Hall).
- L₁. = Bodl. Library, Laud. Misc. 557.
- L₂. = Bodl. Library, Laud. Misc. 416.
- Lb. = Lambeth Palace Library, MS. 742.
- M. = Lord Mostyn's MS. (Mostyn Hall).
- P. = Magdalen College (Cambridge) Library, Pepys 2011.
- Ra. = Bodl. Library, Rawlinson C. 48.
- Ro. = Brit. Mus. Royal 18. D. II.
- S. = Brit. Mus. Additional 29729 (Stow MS.).
- T₁. = Trinity College (Cambridge) Library, MS. R. 4. 20.
- T₂. = Trinity College (Cambridge) Library, MS. O. 5. 2.

In the foot-notes the manuscripts and oldest editions are given in the following order (*cf.* the genealogy in the Introduction) :

Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂. P. E₂.
 2. Ro. Ap.

SYNOPSIS OF THE GAPS exceeding two lines, in the manuscripts and oldest editions (the numbers are inclusive) :

- Ad₁. 785—788.
- Ad₂. 785—788, 4094—4158, 4504 to the end.
- Ap. 1681—1746, 3409 to the end.
- Ba. 2490—2580, 4432 to the end.
- Bo. 1—8, 31—40, 4456—4586.
- C. 1—822, 886—951, 1017—1142, 1403—1463, 1858—1922, 3663—4060, 4386—4515.
- Di. 1—153.

- Du. 111—337, 4284—4340, 4459—4572, 4630—4716.
E₁. 107—176, 4363—4418.
I. 785—788, 3935—4116, 4582—4676.
L₂. 849—852.
Lb. 65—392, 4597—4658.
M. 147—222.
P. 1669—1672.
Ra. 2099—2294.
Ro. 513—1130, 1987—2400, 3011—3210, 3407—3590, 3989—4340.
S. 1455²—1459¹.
T₁. 615—726, 1061—1172.
T₂. 2485—2672, 3634—4209.

Ar. E₂. G. L₁. are complete.

The Siege of Thebes.

[MS. Mus. Brit. Bibl. Arundel 119.]

Incipit Prologus.

[leaf 1]

WHan briȝte phebus / passēd was þe ram
Myd of Aprille / *and* in-to bolē cam,
And Satourn old / *with* his frosty face
In virgynē / taken had his place,
Malencolik / *and* slowgh of mocions;
And was also / in thoposicioun

Phebus in ariete.

In mid-April,

Saturnus in
virgine.

4

Of lucina / the monē moyst and pale,
That many Shour / fro heuene made avale ;

8

whan Aurora / was in þe morowe red,

And Iubiter / in the Crabbēs Hed

Iubiter in capite
cancri.

Hath take his paleys / and his mansioun ;

The lusty tyme / and Ioly fressh Sesoun

12

the jolly fresh
season

whan that Flora / the noble myghty quene,

The soyl hath clad / in newē tendre grene,

1-6 cut away in Bo. (7, 8 incomplete, the second half being cut away).
1-153 lost in Di. 1-822 lost in C. 1. Whan] Whan that T₂. Ba. briȝte] om.
T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Ra. Ba. T₂. P. 2. Myd] and myd L₁. and] om. Lb. in-to
bole] into the bole T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. P. E₂. in the
bole Ra. L₂. Ro. to the foule I. 3. old] olde T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
S. P. E₂. Ap. om. L₂. Ro. 4. In] In þe Ap. virgyne] virgyn M. P. had]
hath Ra. S. has Ba. his place] a p. L₁. 5. Malinkkolik Ad₁. Melyncolik
P. slowe M. slow Ad₁. selough S. Ro. slouth E₁. mocion] mocions L₁.
6. thoposicioun] the opposicioun Ad₁. Ba. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. opposicioun Ad₂. I.
the oposicions L₁. 8. many] many a Du. L₁. Ba. P. Shour] shouris
T₁. Lb. Ad₂. I. shours Ad₁. fro heuene made] made fro heuene Lb.
10. Iubiter] Iupyer E₁. Iupiter E₂. 11. paleys] place I. 12. The] That
Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. P. and] that P. 13. the noble] that noble P. the
lusty Lb. myghty] om. Lb. 14. newe Ad₁. new Bo. M.

THEBES.

B

	with her flourës / craftly ymeynt,	
	Braunch <i>and</i> bough / wiþ red <i>and</i> whit depeynt,	16
	Fletinge þe þawme / on hillis <i>and</i> on valys :	
when the Canter- bury Tales were told,—	The tyme in soth / whan Canterbury talys	
	Compleṭ and tolt / at many sondry stage	
	Of estatis // in the pilgrimage,	20
	Euerich man / lik to his degrè,	
some moral,	Some of desport / some of moralitè,	
	Some of knyghthode / loue and gentillesse,	
	And some also of parfit holynesse,	24
some ribald,	And some also in soth / of Ribaudye	
	To makè laughter / in þe companye,	
like those of The Cook, the Millere, And the Reve,	(Ech admitted / for non wold other greve)	
	Lich as the Cook / þe millere and the Reve	28
	Aquytte hem-silf / shortly to conclude,	
	Boystously / in her termës Rude,	
	whan þei hadde / wel dronken of the bolle,	
also the	And ek also / with his pyllèd nolle	32
¶ Pardonere, [leaf r, bigek]	The pardowner / beerdlees al his Chyn,	
	Glasy-Eyed / and face of Cherubyn,	
	Tellyng a tale / to angre with the frere,	

15. her] his Ba. the L₂. Ro. craftly] craftly Bo. Ba. Ap. ymeynt] meynt Bo. T₁. L₁. Lb. M. E₁. E₂. 16. wiþ] *om.* Ap. [red and whit] white & rede Ro. depeynt] dopeynt *miswritten* Ar. 17. *second on*] in Ap. *om.* Ad₁. I. 18. whan] whanne that L₁. Ad₁. T₂. Cauntrebery Bo. Caunterbury M. Kaunterberi Ad₁. *In* Ad₂. l. 18 and l. 19 are transposed. 19. many] many a Lb. 20. estatis] estate S. the statis Lb. there astates P. the] their Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. T₂. P. L₂. here Lb. *In* Ra. a later hand has altered the into ther by adding an r. 21. Euerich] every Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Ra. Ba. T₂. P. E₂. man] *om.* L₂. Ro. lik] lyke Bo. M. Ad₁. liche Lb. 22. desport] some] d. and s. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. 23. gentillesse] gentilnesse T₁. L₁. Lb. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. P. L₂. Ro. Ap. 25. And] *om.* Ra. Ba. E₂. also in soth] eke i. s. Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. T₂. P. in soth eke L₁. in soth] *om.* L₂. Ro. Ribaudye] ribawdrye Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. P. E₂. L₂. lewed ribaudrye Ro. 26. maken Bo. M. make Ad₁. 27. Ech] They Ad₂. I. for] *om.* L₂. Ro. other greve] ooyr eve Lb. 28. as] *om.* Lb. millere] mylnere Ro. 29. Aquytte] Acquit Ra. L₂. Aequite Bo. Du. Lb. Ad₂. E₁. S. T₂. P. E₂. Ro. Ap. Aequiten M. hemsilf] hem wel T₁. shortly] sothly Ra. to] for to P. 30. boystously] boystuously S. 31–40 cut away on back side of the first leaf in Bo (38. unce, 40. Breteyne is left at the end of the line). 31. dronken] dronkyng Ap. 32. pyllèd] piled Ad₁. peled Lb. S. pallid T₁. Du. T₂. ballyd L₁. 33. The pardowner beerdlees] The berdes pardoner L₁. (taken from the rubric, which in this MS. forms the preceding line of the column). al] of Ro. 34. Glasy-Eyed] Glasyne Eyde Ro. Glasy eyes E₁. E₂. Glasy yen P. glasis eyen S. glasy · rede · Du. of] *om.* Ra. 35. a] to G.

- s opynly // the storie kan 3ow lere, 36
ord for word / with euery circumstaunce,
chon ywrite / and put^t in remembraunce written by
y hym þat^t was / 3if I shal not^t feyne, ¶ Chaucer,
loure of Poetës / thorghout^t al breteyne, 40 the Flower of
Which sothly haddë / most^t of excellence Poets,
n rethorike / and in eloquence
Rede his making^t / who list^t the trouthe* fynde)
Which neuer shal / appallen in my mynde, 44
ut^t alwey fressh / ben in my memorye* : (who will be
o whom* be 3ouë / pris / honure / and glorie* always fresh in
f wel seyinge / first^t in oure language, my memory,)
hief Registrer / of þis pilgrimage, 48
l þat^t was tolde / forþeting^t noght at al, and told his
eynëd talis / nor þing^t Historial, Tales
With many prouerbe / diuers and vnkouth,
e rehersaile / of his Sugrid mouth, 52 with his sugard
f eche thyng^t / keping^t in substaunce mouth,
he sentence hool / with-outë variance,
oyding^t the Chaf / sothly for to seyn,
36. As opynly] As o. as T₁. Du. Lb. And o. as L₁. Al o. as M. 37. for]
L₁. 38. Echon ywrite] Echon writen T₁. Echone wreton M. 39. was]
n. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. shal] shuld Ra. Ba. L₂. 40. Poetes] poietys Ro. Ap.
thorghout] thorough out L₂. throughout E₂. thorough Du. M. Ad₁. Ra. Ap.
thorough Lb. T₂. thorgh T₁. Ba. P. Ro. through L₁. S. thorough out of E₁.
l. sothly] shortly P. hadde Ad₁. Ra. T₂. had Bo. M. of] om. L₂. Ro. 42. In]
othe in Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. T₂. rethorike] retryk T₂. and] and eke Ra. (eke
added by later hand). second in] om. Ad₂. I. 43. Rede] Redeth Bo. T₁. Du.
b. M. T₂. P. who] whos Bo. T₁. Du. M. who so Lb. Ba. trouthe M. Ad₁.
outh Ar. Bo. fynde] to finde M. Ra. (to added by later hand). 44. Which] þat
Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. S. 45. alwey] evir L₂. fressh ben Ad₁. fresshe be Bo. M.
e fressh T₂. freyshely bene Ap. my] om. I. Ro. memorye] memoyre Ar.
n my memorye] called Geffray Chawcer by name P. (written by a later hand, partly
n erasure). 46. whom] who Ar. be] ben Ra. Ba. 3oue] yoven Ba.
ene E₁. Ap. geven S. ioye Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Ad₂. I. glorye] gloyre Ar.
p (: memory). The scribe of P. wrote honoure glorie and pris, the later hand has
raised most of pris and written flane across it. 47. seyinge Ad₁. sayng Bo.
eieng M. langage G. Bo. 48. Registrer] registrier Bo. Registerer T₂.
regester L₁. P. regystere Ad₁. S. Ap. regestire Ro. Registre Ba. regestre
Ad₂. I. L₂. of] in E₂. þis] his S. 49. Al] Of Ro. forþeting] forgetyn L₁. Ba. P.
t] om. L₂. Ro. 50. talis] tale I. nor þing] ne thing Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ro.
o thing L₂. nor nothyng L₁. Ba. and thing Lb. 51. prouerbe] prouerbes
e. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. P. E₂. 52. Sugrid] sugir L₂. 53. in]
e Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. T₂. P. 54. hool] of Iobe Ad₂. of Iove I.
5. Voyding] Wyndyng Ad₂. I. the] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. sothly] softly Lb.
or] om. Ra. Ba. L₂. Ro. for to seyn] fro the seyne L₁.

	Enlumynyng ¹ / þe trewë pikëd greyn	5
from the Pilgrims' meeting	Be crafty writinge / of his sawës swete,	
	Fro the tymë / that ¹ thei deden* mete	
	First the pylgrimes / sothly euerichon,	
¶ At þe tabard ¹ in Suthwerk,—	At the Tabbard / assembled on be on,	6
	And fro suthwerk / shortly forto seye,	
on to Canterbury,—	To Canterbury / ridyng ¹ on her weie,	
	Tellynge a tale / as I rehercë can,	
¶ The Hoste.	Lich ¹ as the hoste / assignëd euery man.	6
[leaf 2]	None so hardy / his biddyng ¹ disobeye.	
	And this whilë* / that ¹ the pilgrymes leye	
at this time, while the Pilgrims were lodged there,	At ¹ Canterbury / wel loggëd* on and all,	
	I not ¹ in soth / what ¹ I may it ¹ call,	6
I chaunst to enter the town,	Hap / or fortune / in Conclusioun,	
	That ¹ me byfil / to entren into touñ,	
	The holy seynt ¹ / pleynty to visite	
	Aftere siknesse / my vowës to aquyte,	
in a black cope,	In a Cope of blak / and not ¹ of grene,	
¶ Disceryng of the Monk.	On a palfrey / slender / long ¹ / and lene,	
on a scraggy nag with a rusty bridle.	wip rusty brydel / mad nat ¹ for þe sale,	
	My man to-forn / with a voidë male ;	
	whiche of Fortunë / took ¹ myn Inne anon	

56. Enlumynyng] Elewmynyng L₂. piked] pyken Bo. Du. 58. deden A I. T₂. ded Ar. dede G. S. didn M. Ad₂. did Bo. Du. L₁. Lb. Ba. P. E₂. Ro. dide T₁. Ra. E₁. Ap. 59. sothly] om. P. 60. At the] atte Ad₁. T₂. T₁. M. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₂. on be on] euery one by one Ad₂. I. *Between* 59 a 60 L₁. *has the rubric*: At the Tabard in Southwerk first they met; *in connexion with this*, l. 60 *has been altered into* And ther they assembled one bi oo 61. And fro] At G. suthwerk Ar. Southwerk T₁. Du. L₁. M. T₃. L₂. Soutpwe Ad₁. Sowthwerk Ad₂. I. soutwerk Bo. Southewerk Ro. E₁. Southwerke L₁. Sothwerk Ra. Sothewerk S. Sothwerke E₂. Suthwarke Lb. Sothwarke Ba. I. shortly] soopli Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. 62. on] in Ad₂. I. her] the 63. tale] take *miswritten* Ar. as] liche as Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. lich 64. the hoste] thost¹ T₁. Lb. 65-392. *gap in* Lb. 66. this] in this Bo. Du. L₁. M. T₂. P. while Bo. Ad₁. whil Ar. tyme M. pilgrymes] pylgrimage 67. loggëd] louted Ar. G (*ep.* 78). logid L₁. S. Ro. looged Ad₂. lodged 68. not] ne wote L₂. Ro. soth] feith Ad₂. I. 69. in] as in Ro. 70. ent into Ar. enter into G. entre into L₂. Ro. entre into þe Bo. *and the* (*see Notes*). 72. siknesse my vowës] my sykenesse vowës E₁. E₂. to aquy taquite Ad₁. for to aquyte Ra. 73. Cope] Cape G. 74. slender Ar. G. T₂. E₁. slendre Ra. Ba. sklendre Bo. T₁. Du. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. sclendre S. L₂. sclender E₁. P. sclendire Ro. sklendyre Ap. slender long] longe sklendre Bo. T₁. Du. I. P. P. 75. rusty] a rusty L₁. T₂. lusti Ad₁. mad nat] nat maad Ad₁. A I. P. 76. voide Bo. M. void Ad₁. 77. which] That Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. took] took I Ad₂. I.

- Wher þe pylgrymes / were logged euerichon,
 The samē tyme / Her gouvernour, the host,
 Standing in halle : ful of wynde *and* bost, 80
 Lich to a man / wonder sterne *and* fers,
 Which spak to me / and seide anon, "daun Pers,
 Daun Domynyk / Dan Godfrey / or Clement,
 3e be welcom / newly into kent, 84 welcound me,
 Thogh 3oure bridel / haue neiþer boos ne belle ;
 Besechinge 3ou / þat 3e wil me telle
 First 3oure name / and of what contrē
 With-outē morē* · shorte-ly that 3e be, 88
 That lōke so pale / al deuoyde of blood,
 Vpon 3oure hede / a wonder thred-bar hood,
 Wel araiēd / for to ridē late."
 I answerde / "my namē was Lydgate, 92
 Monk of Bery / ny3 fyfty 3ere of age,
 Come to this tounē / to do my pilgrimage,
 As I haue hight / I haue* therof no shame."
 "Daun Ioħn," quod he / "wel brokē 3e 3oure name ! 96
 Thogh 3e be soul / beth right glad *and* light !
 Preiynge 3ou / soupē with vs to-nyght,
 And 3e shal haue* / mad at 3oure devis,

The Host, the
Pilgrims' boss,

¶ The wordes
of the host to
the Monk.

and askt me who
I (so pale and
seedy) was, and
whence I came.

I said I was
¶ Lydgate
¶ Monk of Bery,
near 50,
and had come
on pilgrimage.

¶ The wordes of
þe host.
[leaf 2, back]

He askt me to
sup with his
pilgrims,

78. Wher] Where as Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ther T₂. were logged] logged wern Bo. Du. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. T₂. were] om. L₁. euerichon] echon M. Ad₂. Ar. has a second pause-bar after were. 79. Her] the Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. the] here Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. their Ba. S. 80. halle] þe halle L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. P. 81. Lich to] Liche Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Ra. Ba. L₂. Ro. sterne] stoor Ra. Ba. 82. Which] That Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. om. Ra. Ba. to me] anone P. and seide anon] anon and seid L₁. 84. welcom Ad₁. Ra. welcome Bo. T₁. M. into] vnto P. 85. neiþer Ar. G. Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Ro. nyther Du. nether L₂. nouthir Ra. T₂. Ap. noþer Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. P. E₂. nooþer Ba. boos ne belle] liste nor belle Ad₂. I. 86. Besechinge G. Ad₁. Ra. besekyng Bo. T₁. Ad₂. I. wil] wolde Ad₁. I. me] om. E₁. E₂. 87. 3oure] of youre E₁. E₂. of] om. Bo. T₁. Du. M. E₁. E₂. 88. more] mor Ar. G. Ra. L₂. 89. al] and G. 91. araiēd Ad₁. arraied M. arayde Bo. ryden Bo. M. ride Ad₁. 92. Lydgate (Lidgate)] Lidgat Bo. Lydygate Ap. 93. Bery Ar. G. L₂. Bury Bo. and all the rest (cp. 131). ny3] nat Ad₂. I. 95. haue] ha Ar. alone. I haue therof] therof haue I M. 96. broke] brouke Bo. T₁. Du. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₂. 3e] þee Bo. om. Ad₂. I. 3e 3oure] he her T₂. 97. be] om. Ad₂. I. soul Ar. G. Ra. sovl Ad₁. sowl S. sole Bo. Du. M. Ad₂. L₂. E₂. Ap. soole L₁. sool I. E₁. T₂. Ro. 3e be soul] ye be foul] Ba. ye be seke P. it be so T₁. beth] be Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Ad₂. I. S. T₂. L₂. Ro. right] om. Ad₂. I. 98. soupe] to soupe Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. E₁. T₂. P. E₂. to nyght] þis nyght Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. E₁. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ro. (cp. 143). 99. haue] han Ar. alone. mad] om. L₂. Ro. 3oure] youre owne Ro. devis] avyee P.

- A gret puddyng^t / or a rounde hagys, 100
 A Franchemole* / a tansey / or a froyse.
 To ben a Monk / Selender is 3oure koyse ;
 3e han be seke / I dar myñ hede assure,
 Or latë fed / in a feynt pasture. 104
 Lift^t vp 3oure hed / be glad, tak no sorowe !
 And 3e shal hom ridë with vs to-morowe !
 I seyë, whan 3e rested han 3our^t fille.
 Aftere soper / Slepe wil do noñ ille. 108
 Wrappe wel 3oure hede / with* clothës rounde aboute !
 Strong^t notty ale / wol makë* 3ou to* route.
 Tak a pylow / þat^t 3e lye not^t lowe !
 3if nedë be / Sparë* not^t to blowe ! 112
 To holdë wynde / be myñ opynyoun,
 Wil engendre / Collikes* passioun
 And makë men to greuen / on her roppys,
 whan thei han filled / her mawës and her croppys. 116
 But^t toward^t nyght^t / ete some fenel Rede,
 and ride home
 with em to-
 morrow.
 He bade me
 drink nutty ale,
 eat fennel-seed
 at night,

100. rounde] *om.* P. hagys] haggis Ra. Ba. P. Agys Ro. Ap. hastyng G.
 101. Franchmole Ar. Franchemole G. frankmole Ap. franche myle Bo.
 T₁. Du. L₁. M. fraunchemul Ad₁. Ad₂. fraunchemule T₂. S. Fronchemul I.
 freunchemule Ba. fraunchmule Ro. fransmule Ra. franchemele L₂. fraunche-
 moyle E₁. E₂. fraunche Mayle P. 102. ben. Ad₁. be Bo. M. sklendre Bo.
 T₁. Du. M. sklendyr L₁. Ro. Ap. slendir Ra. L₂. T₂. E₂. Ba. koyse (coise)]
 choyse Ba. 103. han Ar. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. L₂. haue Bo. and the rest. han] *om.*
 M. be] ben L₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. P. E₂. Ro. seke Ar. G. I. Ra. Ba. P. Ro.
 Ap. sek T₂. seek Ad₂. seeke L₁. syke Bo. T₁. Du. M. E₁. S. L₂. sik Ad₁.
 sicke E₂. 104. late fed] late I-fedde T₂. lette fede E₁. E₂. latte fede S.
 105. take Bo. M. Ad₁. tak] and take P. In Bo. l. 105 and l. 106 have
 been transposed. 106. shal] shul Bo. T₁. Du. M. Ra. T₂. shold E₁. should E₂.
 hom ride] ride hom Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ar. has a pause-bar after ride. 107.
 say Bo. M. sey Ad₁. han Ar. G. Bo. Du. M. Ad₁. Ra. haue T₁. L₁. Ad₂. I. Ba.
 S. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. restid han] hane restid Ad₂. I. ; Ar. has a pause-bar
 after 3e. 107—176 gap in E₁. 108. Slepe] to slepe Ad₂. I. wil do non] woll
 do you none P. well & do noun L₂. 109. wel] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. with] *om.*
 Ar. G. Ra. Ba. E₂. Ap. 110. notty] nopypy L₂. Ap. ; in L₁. notti is by a late
 hand altered to nopypy. mak Ar. make Bo. M. Ad₁. to] *om.* Ar. G. 111—337
 gap in Du. 111. þat] and P. lowe] to lowe L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. P. 112. 3if]
 And iff T₂. Spare] Spar Ar. spaar Ad₁. to] for to L₂. Ro. *om.* Ra. 114. Wil]
 It wil Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. T. T₂. P. engendre] gendyr L₁. Collis Ar.
 G. Bo. T₁. L₁. Ad₁. Ra (collyke written in margin by late hand). Ba. T₂. Ap.
 colles P. E₂. collikes M. collykes L₂. collyk Ad₂. I. collica Ro. colica S.
 115. men] *om.* Bo. to] *om.* P. grenen] gronyn L₂. on] in Ad₁. Ad₂. I. L₂. Ap.
 on her] *om.* S. 116. han Bo. Ad₁. haue M. filled] fylled wele Ro. her mawes
 and] *om.* Ro. and her croppys] and croppes Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. P. L₂. 117.
 fenel] febell T₂. venel L₂. Rede] I rede Ad₁. Ad₂. ; L₂. and Ro. have sede, I. has
 seed, from 118.

- Annys / Comyn / or coriandre sede !
 And lik as I / pouer haue / *and* myght,
 [Chargē ȝow / rise not at Mydnyght, 120 and not get up
 at midnight.
 Thogh it so be / the moonē shynē cler.
 [wol my-silf / be ȝoure Orloger He'd call me
 early;
 To-morow erly / whan I se my tyme,
 For we wol forþ / parcel a-forē Pryme, 124 and we'd start
 before Prime.
 A company / pardē / Shal do ȝou good.
 What! look vp, Monk / for, by kokkis blood,
 Thow shalt be mery / who so þat sey nay.
 For to-morowe, anoon / as it is day, 128
 And that it gynne / in þe Est to dawē,
 Thow shalt be boundē* / to a newē lawē,
 Att'goyng oute of Canterbury toune, When we left
 Canterbury,
 And leyn a-sidē / thy professioun. 132
 Thow shalt not chesē / nor þi-silf withdrawē,
 Ȝif eny myrth / be founden in thy mawē, I was to tell a
 merry tale,
 Lyk the custom / of this Compenye;
 For non so proude / that dar me denyē, 136
 Knyght nor knauē / Chanon / prest / ne nonne,

118. omitted in I. 118. Comyn] comyng G. coriandre] colyaundre G. Ad₂. S. P. collyandir L₂. sede] rede Ro. 119. pouer haue] haue p. P. 120. rise] to rise Bo. T₁. M. T₂.; in Ad₂. and I. l. 120 is quite altered: I shall be your herberiwor for this nyht. 121. so be] be so L₁. L₂. Ro. be] be that P. 122. I wol myself] myself wil be Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Orloger Ar. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. E₂. Ro. orliger Bo. T₁. L₁. M. T₂. P. orlegere L₂. orlagere Ap. our loggere Ba. 124. For] And for Ra. parcel afore] a parcell affore Ra. parcel bfore Bo. T₁. L₁. M. I. L₂. a parcel bi-fore Ad₁. Ad₂. parcell or Ba. percas before P. parse after Ap. 125. A company] Accompanie E₂. And company Ro. Ap. shal] þat shal Bo. T₁. L₁. M. T₂. P. ȝou] no L₁. 126. by] my G. 127. þow shalt Ad₁. M. þou shal Bo. who so] who Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Ba. T₂. P. sey Ad₁. seith Bo. M. 128. anoon as] as sone as Bo. T₁. L₁. M. T₂. anoon whan Ra. Ba. In Ad₂. and I. the original l. 127 is missing and its place is taken by l. 128, which in I. agrees with Ar. Ad₁., but in Ad₂. is altered to: To-morwe anone as sone as hit is day; a new l. 128 has been composed: Thow shalt ful wel knowe as I the say Ad₂. As thow shalte knowe as I the say I. 129. gynne] begynneth P. to] om. E₂. in þe Est to dawē] into the Est to drawe Ba. 130. Thow shalt] Ye shalt Ba. bounde Bo. M. Ad₁. bound Ar. to] vnto Ra. P. 131. Canterbury] Caterbury Ar. Cauntrebery Bo. Caunterbury M. Ad₁. 132. lay Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. a-side] a-doun G. professioun] profeschoun L₁. 133. nor] ne Bo. T₁. L₁. M. S. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. 134. myrth Bo. merthe M. Ad₁. founden] founde G. Bo. T₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. P. E₂. om. L₁. 135. lik Ad₁. lyke Bo. M. companye G. Bo. 136. non] noon is Bo. T₁. L₁. M. T₂. P. proude] bold T₂. hardy Ro. that dar] that day T₂. me] om. Ad₂. I. 137. nor] ne L₁. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. prest] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. ne] nor I. Ra. Ba. S. Ap.

8 *We leave Canterbury at sunrise, to dine at Ospringe.* [PROLOG.

	To telle a talë / pleynly as thei konne, Whan I assigne / and se tyme opportune.	
as every one had to, on the home journey.	And for that we / our purpoos wil contune, We wil homward / the samë custome vse, And thow shalt not / platly the excuse.	140
¶ How oure host spak to Daun Iohn.	Be now wel war / Stody wel to-nyght! But, for al this / be of hertë lizt! Thy wit shal be / þe Sharper <i>and</i> the bet."	144
Then we had a good supper,	And we anon / were to Soper set, And seruëd wel / vnto oure plesaunce; And sone after / be good gouernaunce	148
went to bed,	Vnto bed goth euery maner wight.	
and in the morning	And touarde morowe / anon as it was light, Euery Pilgryme / bothë* bet <i>and</i> wors,	
started at sun- rise,	As bad oure hostë / toke a-non his hors, Whan the sonnë / roos in the est ful clyere,	152
meaning to dine at Ospringe.	Fully in purpoos / to come to dynere Vnto Osspryng / and brekë þer our faste.	
When out of the town,	And whan we weren / from Canterbury paste Noght the space / of a bowë draught, Our hoost in hast / haþ my bridel rauht,	156
our Host said	And to me seide // as it were in game,	
'let's have some fun.'	"Come forth, daun Iohn / be þour Cristene name,	160
[leaf 3, back]	And lat vs make / some manere myrth or play!	

138. pleynly] such Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 139. Whan] Whan that Ba. and se] om. Ra. Ba. to se Ad₂. I. 139 and 140 omitted in L₂. 140. And] om. Ra. Ba. that] om. Bo. T₁. L₁. M. T₂. P. we our purpoos wil] we will o. p. L₁. wil] forth wil M. contune] continen S (:oportune). 141. the same] our Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. In Bo. II. 141—146, 150, 151 were nearly obliterated and have been filled in again by a later hand, not always correctly (e.g. shat f. shal 142. new f. now 143). 142. platly] plainly Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. E₂. 143. to-nyght] this nyght L₂. Ro. 144. lizt] right light Bo. T₁. M. T₂. P. 146. And] Yf Bo. M. T₂. P. to] vnto Ba. were to soper] to soper wer S. 147—222 gap in M. 147. vnto] to T₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. 149. Ar. has a pause-bar after goth. 150. anon as] as sone as Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. T₂. E₂. 151. bothe T₁. boþe Ad₁. both Ar. Bo. 152. As] And L₂. Than Ro. oure] þe Bo. T₁. L₁. T₂. P. toke] take L₂. Ro. 153. roos] aroos Ad₁. Ad₂. I. T₂. om. Ba. the est] thest T₁. 154. Fully] Ful Bo. T₁. L₁. Di. T₂. P. to dynere] vnto d. Di. T₂. to oure d. Ro. 155. Ospryng Bo. Ospring G. Ad₁. Hospreng P. 156. wern Ad₁. were Bo. from] fro Bo. T₁. L₁. Di. Ra. Ba. S. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 158. haast Bo. hast T₁. Ad₁. haste Ra. rauht] kauht Ra. laght Ba. 160. cristen Bo. Ad₁. 161. manere] om. Bo. T₁. L₁. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. or] and P.

Shet^t 3oure portoos / a twenty deuelway!

It* is no disport / so to patere *and* seie.

It wol make 3oure lippès / wonder dreye.

164 ¶ How oure host
bad Daun Iohan
telle a tale,

Tel some tale / and make ther-of a* Iape!

For be my Rouncey / thow shalt not eskape.

But preche not / of noñ holynesse!

not a holy,

Gynne some tale / of myrth or of gladnesse,

168 but a merry one.

And noddè not / with thyn heuy bekke!

Telle vs some thyng / that draweþ to effecte

Only of Ioyè / ! make no lenger lette!"

And whan I saugh / it woldè be no bette,

172

I obeyed* / vnto his biddynge,

So I obeyd him,

So as the lawè / me bonde in al thinge;

And as I coudè / with a palè cheere,

My tale I gan / anon / as 3e shal here.

176 and began my
Tale (which is a
sad one).

Explicit Prologus.

Incipit Pars Prima. Per &c.

162. Shet] Shet vp Bo. T₁. L₁. Di. P. leve Ad₂. I. portoos] portos G. Bo. Di. Ra. P. portas L₁. portes E₂. porteis L₂. portoyes Ba. portewes S. E₂. a] on P. in a Ba. 163. It is T₁. L₁. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. T₂. L₂. Ro. Hit is Bo. P. Is (*om.* it) Ar. G. E₂. Ap. Is it S. no disport] no sporte L₁. T₂. none sporte Di. a disport S. so] *om.* P. to] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. seie] to seye Bo. P. so to seye T₂. In T₂. 163 and 164 are transposed. 164. wonder] *om.* G. dreye] drye Bo. Ap. 165. therof] herof L₂. a] no Bo. L₁. Di. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. Ap. *om.* Ar. G. 166. not] it not Bo. L₁. Ra. S. T₂. P. E₂. Ad₁. not it Di. Ba. 167. preche Bo. Ad₁. holynesse] hevynesse Di. 168. Gynne] Begynne Di. Ap. Gyf Bo. yeve T₁. Gyff vs L₁. or of] or G. and of Bo. T₁. L₁. Ro. and Di. P. 169. nodde I. nod Bo. Ad₁. nodde] *om.* Ad₂. with] so with Ro. *om.* Ap. bekke Ar. G. L₁. Ad₁. S. E₂. beck Ba. Ap. bek Bo. T₁. Ra. T₂. P. L₂. beke Di. beeke Ro. necke Ad₂. I. 170. vs] *om.* L₁. some thyng] merithing Di (*written by later hand, the original reading being effaced*). draweþ] touchip Di. to] *om.* G. til Ad₂. I. effecte Ar. L₁. Ad₂. I. S. P. E₂. Ap. effect Ba. effekke G. Ad₁. effek Bo. T₁. Di. Ra. T₂. L₂. to effecte] of to speke Ro. In Ar. effecte has been altered by a later hand into effekke. 171. make] and make Bo. T₁. L₁. Di. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. 172—176 in Di. almost effaced and partly filled in by a later hand. 172. wolde] woll P. 173. obeyed T₁. Di. Ra. Ad₂. I. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. obeyde Ar. G. Bo. L₁. S. Ap. obeid Ad₁. Ba. T₂ (*cp.* 408). 174. So] And L₂. Ro. And so G. (*with And underdotted*). *om.* Bo. T₁. L₁. Di. lawe] hauc (*by later hand*) Di. bonde] bounde L₁. S. Ro. allowid Ad₂. I. 175. And] *om.* Ro. coude] couthe Bo. T₁. Ba. a pale] a ful pale Ro. 176. I gan anon] I began anon Ap. anon I gan S. began P. anon as] so as T₂. shal] shul T₁. T₂. P. may G. *om.* Ra. here] aftir here P.

[leaf 4]

Prima Pars.

As I am now one
of your company,

Sirs / quod I ȝ sith of ȝour curtesye*
 I entred am / in-to ȝour companye,
 And admitted / a talē for to telle
 By hym þat haþ pouer to compelle, 180
 I mene our hoste, gouvernour and guyde
 Of ȝow echon / ridyng her be-side ;
 Thogh that my wit / barayn be and dul,

I will tell you
a story of the
Siege of Thebes,

I wol reherce / a story wonderful, 184
 Towchinge the siege / and* destruccioun
 Of worthy Thebes / the myghty Royal toun,
 a city built by
 Bylt and begonne / of olde antiquitè,
 Vpon the tyme / of worthy Iosué, 188
 King Amphion.
 Be dyligence / of kyng^r Amphion,
 Chief causē first / of his fundacioun,
 For which his fame / which neuere shal away,
 In honure flouretli / ȝit vnto this day, 192
 And in story / remembred is and preised.

How he raisd
the walls,

But how the wallys / weren on heghte reised,
 It is wonder / and merveil forto here.

177. I] he Ad₁. curtesye T₁. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. E₁. S. T₂. Ro. E₂. curteseye Ar. curtesye I. curtasye Bo. Ba. curtesy Ra. P. L₂. cowrtassy L₁. 180. haþ pouer] power hath Bo. T₁. Di. T₂. Ar. has a pause-bar after pouer. 181. Oste Bo. Oost Ad₁. Ost T₁. Di. host Ra. 182. echon] eueri on Di. 183. that] om. T₂. I₂. Ro. my] om. S. barayn be] be baryn S. 184. wonderful] ful wonderful L₁. riȝt wonderful Di. 184-194 in Di. are partially effaced and the word filled in, sometimes very incorrectly (e.g. 186, 187, 190), by a later hand 185. and] of Ar. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. 191. fame] name Bo. T₁. L₁. Di. T₂. P. which þat Bo. T₁. L₁. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. T₂. om. I₂. P. neuere shal] shal neuer T₂. P. L₂. Ro. 192. vnto] into Bo. T₁. L₁. 193. in] om. Ra. preised] preved L₁. Ar. has a second pause-bar after remembred. 194. weren on heghte] on heigh were Bo. T₁. Di. on high were L₁. on heghte] on heigh T₂. S. in hih Ad₂. I reised] areisid Di. I-reysed Ba. 195. wonder and merveil] merneile and wondr Bo. T₁. L₁ (marvell). Di.

- But if 3e list / I shal 3ow platly lere 196
 The maner hool / shortly in sentence,
 Vnder support / of 3oure pacience,
 As writ myn auctour / and bochas both two, you will find in
 Rede her bookes / and 3e shal fynde it so, 200 Boccaccio.
 How this kyng / thys prudent Amphyoun,
 With the swetnesse / and melodious soun
 * And armony / of his swetë song
 The Cytë bylt / that whilom was so strong, 204
 Be vertue only / of the werbles sharpe
 That he made / in Mercuries harpe,
 Of which the strenges / were not touchëd softe,
 Wherby the wallës / reisëd weren a-lofte, 208
 With-outë craft / of eny mannys hond,
 Ful 3oor agon / myd of Grekës lond; [leaf 4, back]
 which is a ping / of Poetës told,
 Neuere yseyn / neither of 3ong nor old. 212
 ¶ But, as Bochas / list to specifie,
 Cler expownyng / this derkë poysye,
 ¶ Seith * Mercury / god of Eloquence,
 3af, be the myght / of heuenly influence, 216
 Vnto this kyng / at His natiuitë
 Thorgh glade aspectës /, that he shuldë * be
 Most excellent / be craft of Rethorik,
 That in this world / was noñ to hym lik; 220
 Which signyfieth / to hem that ben prudent,

How kyng Am-
phyoun was þe
first þat bilt the
Cyte of Thebes
be þe swetnesse
of his sounë.

He built the city
by the warbles of
his harp.

¶ The exposici-
oun of Iohn
Bochas vpon þis
derk poysie.

196. platly] playnly L₁. S. P. 197. shortly] playnly Bo. T₁. L₁. Di. Ad₂. I.
Ra. Ba. S. platly Ad₁. E₁. T₂. E₂. sothely P. 200. 3e shal] ye shulen T₁.
þou shalt Bo. it] right Ad₂. I. 202. With the] Wit his Ra. 203. In Ar.
G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. U. 203 and 204 are transposed. And] Bi Ad₁.
Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 204. The] This Di. whilom] some tyme Bo. T₁. L₁. Di. T₂.
P. L₂. Ro. 205. the] his Bo. T₁. L₁. Di. om. Ra. Ba. 206. made] had made
Ad₂. I. 208. wern Ad₁. were Bo. T₁. wer Ra. a-lofte Bo. on loft Ad₁. Ra.
209. honde with e underdotted Ar. 210. 3oor agon] yere agoo Ba. many a yeere
ago P. myd] in mydde Di. amyde P. 212. yseyn] seyn T₁. sene T₂.
neither] om. Bo. T₁. L₁. Di. T₂. nor] ne T₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ba. S. L₂. Ro. nethir P.
old] of old Bo. T₁. L₁. Ad₁. E₁. S. T₂. 213. Bochas] bookes Ad₂. I.
214. Cler] Clerly Bo. T₁. L₁. Di. T₂. Clerkely P. this] þe Di. L₂. 215. Seith]
Seth Ar. G. Ap. Sith Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. P. E₂. L₂. Seith þat Bo. T₁.
L₁. Di. T₂. 217. this] þe Bo. T₁. L₁. Di. T₂. P. G. 218. shulde Bo.
shuld Ar. 220. this] the I. P. worlde Bo. world Ad₁. was] þer was Ad₁.
Ad₂. I. non] Man P. to] vnto T₂. P. om. Di. S.

¶ The significa-
cion of þe harpe
of Mercur.

The Musycal / the lusty instrument,

¶ I mene the harpē / most melodious,

yovē to this kynge / be Mercurius, 224

Amphion's song

And his song^t / this auctour can ȝow teche,

was no thyng^t / but the crafty speche

Of this kyng^t / ycallēd Amphion ;

Wher-by He made / the contrēs envyroun 228

was his sweet
words,

To han such lust / in his wordēs swete,

That^t were so plesaunt / fauourable, *and* mete

¶ In her Eerys / that shortly ther was noon

Disobeyaunt^t / with the kyng to goon, 232

¶ How kyng
Amphion, be
mediacion of his
soft spech, wan
þe loue & þe
herthes of the
puple.

Wher so euere / that hym list assigne.

His cheer / his port^t / was outward* so benygne,

That^t thorgh his styryng / *and* exortacioun

With hym they went^t / to byldē* first^t this toun, 236

whereby he got
folk to build him
Thebes, of

And forsook / ecch man his contrē,

Be on assent^t / to makē this Cytē

Royal *and* riche / that lich was nowher noon.

lime and stone,

And thus the wallis / made of lym *and* stoon, 240

[leaf 5]

Were Reysēd first^t / be syngyng of this kyng^t,

as poets feign.

lich as Poetys / feyne in her writyng^t,

Passyng Rich / *and* Royal of entaille.

¶ Her may ȝe See / how myche may avaylle 244

The goodlihed / *and* lownesse of a kyng^t,

222. the lusty] þat lusty Bo. T₁. Di. lusty] listi Ad₁. 224. yove Ar. G. Ad₁.
Ad₂. I. Ra. E₂. Ap. youen Bo. T₁. M. Di. Ba. T₂. P. yeve L₂. Ro. geven
L₁. S. gone E₁. this] þe Di. 225. can] gan Ro. 227. this] the P. kyng]
om. L₂. ycallēd] ecallid L₂. called Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. Ba. S. P. Ro. 230. so]
om. L₂. Ro. plesaunt] om. Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. plesaunt favourable] favourable
pleaunt T₂. P. 231. Eerys] hertis L₁. that] om. P. ther] þat þer Di. ther
was] was ther T₁. 233. so] sum L₁. Ra. that] om. Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. S. P.
hym] he S. list] om. T₂. assigne] to assigne Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra.
Ba. S. T₂. P. E₂. Ap. 234. outward] after Ar. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. E₁. evar S. efte
E₂. om. G. benygne with the second n underdotted Ar. 234. om. in Ad₂. I.
235. That] What T₁. L₁. thorgh] om. P. styryng] steringes Ad₁. strength Ad₂.
I. strenth crossed through and sterynge written above by old hand Ap. termys
Ra. Ba. sternes S. 236. bylde Bo. bilde M. byld Ar. Ad₁. bigge T₂. bylte P.
first] om. P. this] þe Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. 239. and] om. Ad₂. I. was
nowher] nowhere was Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. nowher] nevir L₂. om. E₁. E₂. 241.
Reysed first] first reysid M. Di. 244. myche may] moche it may Bo. T₁. L₁. M.
moche ȝe may Di. may] om. Ba. 245. goodlihed] goodelihood Ba. and] and
the Ba. of þe Ad₁. Ad₂. I. lownesse Ar. G. lowlynesse Bo. and all the other
MSS.

- And specealy / in cher and in spekyng,
 To his lyeges / *and* to berñ hym fayre ¶ Nota.
 In his apporti / and shewe hym debonayre, 248 ¶ What availeþ
 And nat to bene / to straungë ne soleyñ ¶ prince to ben
 In cōtenaunce / outward / be disdeyn ; goodly *and* be-
 Which causeþ ofte /, who that Can aduerte, nygne of his port
 Grete hatred / in the puples herte, 252 to his puple.
 And ther-vpon / priuely wol rowne,
 Whan a pryncë / doth vp-on hem frowne, A prince's
 Shortly deme / for al his excellence, frown
 Among hem-silf / out of his presence, 256
 Euerych concludë / lich his fantasye.
 And thus ful ofte / gendred is Envye begets Envy
 In folkës hertes / of soleyntë *and* pryde, in folks' hearts.
 For swich as list / nat onys loke a-syde 260
 To Reward hem / whan they lowë loute.
 And ageyn kynde / it is · out of doute,
 That eny hed / be recorde of the wyse,
 Shuld the foot / of disdeyn despyse 264
 Which bereþ hym vp /, who so can takë hede, ¶ How þe poor
 And Susteneth / in his mostë* nede puple supporten
 As his Pyler / *and* his sowpowayle. *and* beren vp þe
 estat of a kyng.

246. And] An Ar. 248. apporti] porte Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. and] and to Bo. T₁.
 L₁. M. Di. to Ro. hym] om. Ra. Ba. 249. And] om. Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. nat]
 ne Bo. T₁. L₁. nat to bene] to be not T₂. P. to straunge] or stronge Ba. to] om.
 L₁. ne] nor Bo. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. Ap. no L₂. or Ra. Ba. and L₁.
 neither T₂. 251. ofte] of G. that] so Di. om. P. 252. grete Bo. gret M.
 Ad₁. puples Ar. G. puplis T₁. peples Bo. M. Di. Ad₁. P. peplis T₂. peep-
 Ra. pepils L₂. pepeles S. pepilis Ro. pepyllys Ap. poeples Ad₃. poeplis I.
 peoples L₁. E₁. E₂. 253. priuely wol] whilom L₁. wol] wil thei M. Di. wollyn
 P. 254. vp-on] on Ad₁. doth vp-on] wol on Ad₂. I. 255. Shortly] And
 shortly Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. T₂. P. 256. Ar. has a second pause-bar between out
 and of. 258. ofte gendred] ofte engendrid L₁. Ro. 260. loke] to loke Bo. L₁.
 M. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. P. E₂. a-syde] on syde Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. 262. Ar.
 has a pause-bar after kynde, a high point after is. And] om. Ro. kynde] om. Ba.
 out of] withoute M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. withouten Ba. S. 263. eny] the Bo.
 T₁. L₁. M. Di. T₂. P. 264. shulde Bo. T₁. Di. shuld M. Ad₁. Ra. foot]
 fete S. stock Ad₂. I. 265. bereþ] beren M. Di. bere P. who so] whos Bo. T₁.
 M. who L₁. Di. 266. And] And him Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. T₂. P. Ashuld G.
 susteneth] hym susteyneth Bo. T₁. L₁. T₂. hym susten M. Di. hym susteyne
 P. susteneth hym Ad₂. I. most Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. 267. As] And G. As
 his] As is his Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. And be his P. Pyler] pyllors P. sowpowayle
 Ar. G. sowpowaylle Ap. sopowayle Ro. suppowaile Bo. M. Ad₁. Ba. suppo-
 waille Di. suppouaile Ad₂. suppewaile I. suppoayle E₁. E₂. supporaylle S.
 supportaile P (rtai is written by a later hand, on erasure).

For fynaly /, ne werē* the porayle 268

her berer vp / *and* Supportacioun,

Farwel lordshyp / and domynacioun

Thorgh-oute the world / of euery hegh estat !

Wherfor me semeþ / mor is Fortunat^t 272

[leaf 5, back]

Of Mercurye / þe sootē sugred harpe

Than Mars / swerd^t / whetted kene *and* sharpe,

Mor accepted / wiþ asspectis goode

Than is this god / with his lokēs woode. 276

For humble speche / wiþ glad contenaunee

May a pryncē / sothly mor auaunee

Among^t his puple / Hertūs forto wynne

Of inwar^t louē / which that* wol not twynne, 280

Than gold / rychessē / pride / or tyranye,

Outher* disdeyne / daunger / or surquedye.

For of lordes /, as* Clerkēs can reporte,

But^t that* loue / her crownē do supporte, 284

The fyn ys noght* / in conclusioun.

¶ Ensample of
kyng Amphioun.

I Takē record^t / of kyng^t Amphyoun,

That^t byltē Thebēs be his elloquence

Mor than of Pride / or of violence, 288

Noble and riche / that^t lik was nowher noñ,

And thus the wallēs / mad of lym *and* stoon

Were reisēd first^t / be syngyng of this kyng^t,

lich as Poetēs / feyn in her wryting^t. 292

¶ How aftere the
opynoun of
some auctours

¶ But^t sothly ȝit^t / Some expositours,

Groundyng hem / vpon olde auctours,

268. For] And Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. were Bo. M. Ad₁. wer Ar. 269. berer] beryng Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. T₂. P. 271. Thorgh-oute] Thoruh Ad₂. I. Ra. world] londe E₁. lande E₂. hegh] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 271 and 272 transposed in Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 274. Than] Thanne is T₂. Whan Di. whetted] whet Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. T₂. P. grounde Ro. 277. speche Bo. M. Ad₁. spech Ra. 280. which that T₂. which all the other MSS. 282. Oyther Ar. G. outhur Ro. Other Bo. M. either Ad₁ Ra. disdeyne] this deyne Ra. 283. For] Or E₁. S. om. Ro. of] Of his Ro. as] om. Ar. G. E₁. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. can] konne Bo. M. Di. kun T₁. 284. But that Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. L₂. That but Ar. G. Bo. T₁. M. Di. T₂. P. Ro. Ap. That but if L₁ (see Notes). loue] om. Bo. crowne] coroun T₁. do] doth Ba. T₂. Ro. to G. om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 285. noght] nat Ar. G. Ap. not E₁. E₂. 287. bilt Bo. G. M. Ad₁. 290. mad] y made T₂. om. Bo. wer made Ba. 291. reisēd first] first reisid M. Di. 293. sothly] shortly Ra. 294. Groundyng] Groundyn T₂. Grounden Bo. T₁. L₁. M. P. 294 om. in Ba.

Seyn that Cadmus / the famous olde man,

Ful longe afor / this Citè first began

296

Cadmus bilt first
he Cite of
Thebes.

And the ground / of the bieldyng sette,

And the boundës / be compas out-mette*

With thong out-korve / of a boolys hyde,

Whych envyrour / strechë myghtë* wyde .

300

He cut a bull's
hide into strips,
and enclosed
land as the site
of Thebes.

To get Inne londe / a ful largë space

Wher-vp-on to byld / a dwellyng place,

And callèd was the Soyle / þus geten Inne,

Whylom Boece / of the bolys skynne.

304

¶ How þe contre
of Boece toke
first his name of
a bolys skyn,
After called
Thebes.

The name after / into Thebës turned.

[leaf 6]

But Cadmus ther / hath longe not sojourned,

Ik in Story / as it is compyled ;

For shortly he from thennys was exiled,

308

¶ How kyng
Cadmus was
exiled out of
Thebes be prow-
esse of kynge
Amphioun.

Neuer after to dwellen* in this toun,

Be the knyghthode of this Amphioun,

Which vp parformeth / riche for the noonys

The Citè Thebes / of myghty squarë* stonys,

312

As I þow tolde / a litil here to-forñ ;

295. Seyn] Seynge P. Cadmus] Cadicius Bo. Cadinus Ad₁. I. Tadmus
a. Cadimius P. the] þat Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. Ba. T₂. famous] om. Ba. T₂.
297. And the] And Ba. of the] of Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. 298. be
compas out Ar. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. Ap. oute by compas Bo. T₁.
M. Di. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. mette] he mette Ar. Ap. be mette G. In Ar. there
a second pause-bar after compas. 299. thong] a thonge L₁. a whong Ro.
out-korve Ar. G. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. Ro. Ap. out-corne Bo. T₁. M. L₂.
utkerue E₁. T₂. P. E₂. korve out L₁. boolys Ar. bolys M. Ad₁. bulles Bo. boles
L₁. boolys Ro. hyde] side E₁. S. E₂. 299 omitted in Ba. 300. myghte Di.
Ad₂. myght Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. wyde] ful wyde Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. T₂. P. Euyn
envyrour streight met full wyde P. 302. Wher-vp-on] There vpon Bo. T₁. L₁. M.
i. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. Ap. 303. Soyle] place Ad₁. Ad₂. I. þus] om. Bo. T₁. L₁. M.
i. P. geten] goten Bo. M. Di. Ad₂. T₂. P. 304. Boece] Boete Ra. Boyte Ba.
yte L₂. 305. name] names M. Di. 306. But] And Ro. Cadmus] Cadinus
Ad₁. Cadymus P. Thadmus Ad₂. Thadinus I. Tadmus Ra. ther hath longe not]
with not there longe Bo. T₁. M. Di. Ra. E₁. S. T₂. E₂. P (om. there). hath not long
re Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. L₁. L₂. hath pere not longe Ro. 308. from] om. Bo. T₁.
M. Di. T₂. thennys Ar. thennes Ad₁. E₁. S. Thebes G. thenns Bo. and all
e other MSS. he from thennys was] thenns he was Di. T₂. he was from thenns P.
om Thebes he was G. In Ar. the pause-bar is between shortly and he. 309. to]
r to E₁. E₂. dwellen M. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra (dwellyn). dwelle Ar. Bo. T₁. I. dwell
E₂. In Ar. pause-bar after dwelle. this] the E₁. T₂. E₂. 310. the] om. L₁.
is] kyng M. Di. 311. vp] vpon Ba. riche] richely M. Di. riht Ra. right
t. 312. square G. Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra. squar Ar. In Ro. I. 312 reads: The Cite of
hebes with many square s. 313. litil] lyte Bo. T₁. M. Di. Ad₁. E₁. T₂. E₂. a
il here] here a litil Ra. Ba. toforñ] beforne G. L₁. S. P. Ap. afforne Ad₂. I.

And Cadmus þus / hath his kyngdam lorñ,
Sceptre and crowne / *and* his powere Royal.

I've now told
you all about
the building of
Thebes,

¶ Now have I told / vnto þou / ground of al,
That 3e wel knowe / be Informacioun
Cleerly the pith / and exposicioun
Of this mater / as clerkës can þou telle.

and won't say
more, as my
Tale 'll last for
7 miles.

It were but veyn / lenger for to dwelle,
To tary þow / as in this matiere,
Sith my talö / which that 3e shal here,
Vpon oure waie / wil lasten a longe while,
The space* / as I suppose / of vii. myle.
And now 3e knowë* / first how Amphyoun
Bylt and began / this Citè and this touñ,
Regnyng ther / long aftere, as I rede.

Of hym no morë / ; for I wil procede

¶ How þe lyne
of Amphioun be
discent was con-
ueied to kyng
layus.

To my purpoos / that I first began :
Not tellyng here / how the lynë Ran
From kyng to kyng / be successioun,
Conveyng douñ / þe stok of Amphyoun
Cereously be lyneal* discent ;

But leue al this /, pleylnly of entent
To tellë forth /, in bookës as I rede,

¶ How layus be processe / gan succede

[leaf 6, back]

¶ Kyng Layus
and Iocasta hys
wiff.

To bere the Croune / in this myghty Lond,̃,
holdyng the Sceptre of thebës in his hond,
Manly and wys / duryng al his liff.

314. Cadmus] Cadinus Ad₁. Thadinus I. Thadmus Ad₂. 316. vnto] to
Ad₂. I. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. Ap. om. Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. Ba. ground] the ground
M. Di. Ba. T₂. P. 318. pith] path L₁. P. pitehe T₂. and] & of Ro. exposicioun]
thexposicioun M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. T₂. E₂. 318 omitted in Ba. 2.
Sith] Syn Ra. With L₁. which] om. Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. that] as L₁. om. a.
shal] shul Bo. T₁. T₂. P. 323. oure] youre Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. Ad₂. T₂. P. 324. The] Intre
it wil Ad₂. it wol I. lasten Ap. last Bo. laste M. Ad₁. 324. The] Intre
Ba. space] space in soth Ar. and all the other MSS. except Ba. space for s
Ba. as] om. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. Ap. suppose] deme Ro. vii.] sex Ro. an
325. knowe Bo. M. Ad₁. know Ar. 326. began] gan L₁. this Cite] his te
Ra. Ba. the Cite P. and] furst and P. this touñ] his t. Ra. Ba. 327. Regn]
And regned Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. T₂. P. aftere] om. S. 330. lyne] lyn Ad₁. 327
Ad₂. I. 332. þe] to the G. M. Di. by the E₁. E₂. 333. Cereously] Curicly
P. Coryously L₂. lyneal] lyne / al Ar. lyne al G. lyne all S. P. lyne all
E₁. E₂. lyne of Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 335. To telle forth] Now wole I tele
336. gan] can G. succede] procede M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S.

And Iocasta / callēd was his wyff,	340	
Ful wommanly / the story seith certeyn,		
For a tymē / thogh she were bareyn,		She is barren.
Tyl Layus / in ful humble wise		Layus does
To haue a child / didē* Sacrifice,	344	sacrifice to get a child.
Fyrst to* apollo / in his char so brizt,		
And Iubiter / that hap so gret a myght,		
Besechyng hem / with deuout reuerence,		
To graunt only / thorgh her influence,	348	
That his request / may excecuted be ;		
And specially / to Goddesses thre,		Layus prays 3 Goddesses to help him.
He besoughte / Pallas and Iuno		
And Dyanē / forto helpe also	352	
That he be not defrauded of His bone.		
And his preyere / accepted was ful sone,		
That fynaly / thorgh his ryytys olde,		
Evene lik / as his hertē wolde,	356	
The queene Iocasta / hath anōn conceyued ;		His wife conceives a child.
Which whan the kyng / fully hath perceyued *		
He made in hast /, hym lyst not to abide,		
Thorgh hys kyngdom / Massagerēs ryde	360	
Fro Coost to Coost / the story can devyse,		
For dyvynoures / and phylosophres wise,		He sends for diviners to find out the child's fate.
For such as weren / famous physiciens		
And wel expert / Astronomyens,	364	
To Come* in hast / vnto his presence		
To fynden* out / shortly in sentence,		

344. did Ar. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. he dide Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. T₂. P. 345. to apollo] tapollo Ar. G. E₂. Ap. so] full T₂. P. 346. Iubiter] to Iubiter Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. T₂. P. gret a] gret L₁. T₂. Ra. Ba. moche Ro. 350. to] vnto T₂. vnto the P. to the Di. Ra. Ba. Ro. Goddesses] goddesse Di. Ro. goddes L₁. Ba. P. goddys G. Ra. I. 352. And] And eke T₂. And to Di. helpe Bo. Ad₁. helpen M. 356. herte Bo. hert M. Ad₁. wolde] thinke wolde Ro. 358. fully] om. Ra. Ba. hath] om. Ap. perceyued] conceyued Ar. G. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ap. consitheryd S. 360. kyngdom] kyngdom his L₁. Ap. Massageres Ar. G. Messagers Bo. Du. M. Ad₁. S. Messengeris Di. Messengers L₁. E₁. E₂. Ap. Messingers Ba. Messangers T₂. P. L₂. Ro. Messengeris T₁. Massangers Ra. Massangeers Ad₂. I. ryde] to ryde Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. P. for to ryde Ra. Ba. S. T₂. Ap. 363. weren Bo. wern M. Ad₁. 365. Come] Corve Ar. G. 366. fynden M. Di. fynde Ar. Bo. and all the other MSS.

	By Craft only / Of Calculacioun,	
	The Chyldës fate* / and disposicioun ;	368
[leaf 7]	And ther-vpon / to geve / a Iugement,	
¶ How the astro- nomyens and the phylisophres of Thebes calked out þe fate* of Edyppus.	The Root ytaken* / at the ascendent,	
	Trewly sought out / be mynut and degrè	
	The silfë* houre / of his natyvytè,	372
They are to discover it by searching the heavenly mansions, &c.	Not forȝete / the heuenly mansiouns	
	Clerly Cerched / be smalë fracciouns,	
	First be Secoundës / tiers and ekë quartes,	
	On Augrym stoonës / and on white caartes	376
	yprenüd out / be diligent labour,	
	In tables correcte / devoyde of al errour	
	Iustly soght* / and founde / out* bothe* twoo,	
	The ȝeerës collecte* / and expançe also,	380
	Consydyred ek / be good inspeccioun	
	Euery hour* / and constellacioun	
	And eche aspecte / and lookës ek dyuers,	
	Which were good / and which also pervers,	384
	Wher they were toward / or ellys at debat,	
¶ Nota.	¶ happy, welful / or infortunat.	
¶ The cursed Constellacioun and indisposi- cioun of þe heuene in þe natyuite of Edyppus.	And fynaly / in conclusioun,	
	They founde satourn / in the Scorioun,	388
	Hevy-chered / malencolik / and lothi,	

368. fate] face Ar. L₁. Ra. Ap. faete S. disposicioun] his disposicioun Bo. þe disposicioun L₂. 369. And] A Ar. a] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. T₂. P. Ro. 370. Root ytake Ar. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. rote taken Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. at the] atte T₁. M. Ra. E₁. S. T₂. 371. out] om. G. 372. silfë Di. P. selfe L₁. Ra. E₁. selfë Ap. sylve Ro. silf Ar. self Bo. T₁. Du. M. Ad₁. Ba. T₂. E₂. L₂. fwl S. first Ad₂. I. 375. tiers Ar. G. ters Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. T₂. teers Ad₁. E₁. terces E₂. Ro. tercius L₂. tercyes Ap. eke Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. eke] þe L₂. om. Ra. Ro. quartes] quaters Bo. T₂. Ra. Ba. quarterces Ro. 376. white] om. G. Ad₂. I. caartes] coartes Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. T₂. P. coarters Ra. Ba. 379. soght] foght miswritten Ar. sought owte P. out] out of Ar. G. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. on I. om. Ad₂. bothe T₁. M. Ad₁. Ra. both Ar. Bo. 380. In Ar. after ȝeerës is written expands, but crossed out. collecte] correcte Ar. G. L₁. Ad₁. I. Ra. Ba. caret S. correcte (crossed out) comen Ad₂. 382. hour] tour Ar. G. L₂. Ap. and] of Bo. 384. second which] om. Bo. Du. P. also] om. L₁. 385. Wher] Wheper L₁. P. Whedir Ad₂. om. Ba. they were] Wer they Ba. toward] coward Ba. or] om. L₁. ellys] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. E₂. at debat] at þe bate L₁. 386. welful wyllfull Ra. Ba. Ad₂. E₂. L₂. Ro. willfull S. or] other M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. 387. in] as in Ro. 388. In the Nota Edyppus for Edyppus; also Egippus in the next Nota; here also face for fate.

PT. I.] *To stop his son slaying him, Layus bids Jocasta kill him.* 19

And woodē* Mars / furious *and* wrothē,
 holdyng his Sceptre / in þe Capricornē,
 The samē hourē* / whan this chyld was bornē, 392
 Venus deiecte / *and* Contrarious
 And depressēd / in Mercuryes hous ;
 That the dome / and Iugement fynal
 Of thies Clerkes /, to speke in special, 396
 Be Fatal sort / which may not be wiþdrawe,
 That with his swerð / his fader shal be slawe ;
 Ther may no man helpe it / nor excuse.
 On whiche thyng / the kyng gan sorē muse, 400
 And cast he wolde / on that other side
 Agayn her doom / for hym-silf provide,
 Shape a way / and remedy to-forē,
 Biddyng the queenē / whan the chyld were bornē, 404
 With-oute Mercy / or moderly pytē
 That he be ded / : it* may noñ other be.
 And in al hast / lik as he hath sent,
 She obeyēd / his comaundement. 408
 With wooful herte / and a pitous loke
 And facē pale / her ȝonge sone she toke,
 Tendre and grenē / both of flessch *and* bonys,
 To certeyn men / ordeynēd for þe noonys 412
 From poynt to poynt / in al maner' þing
 To execute / the biddyng of the kyng.

¶ Nota.

¶ How the fate* of Edippus disposed that he shulde sleen his owne fadere.

Thinking on this,
 [leaf 7, back]

Layus bids
 Jocasta kill her
 child as soon as
 it is born.

She gives her
 boy to men,

390. woode L₁. Ba. wode Bo. T₁. Du. M. wood Ar. Ad₁. Ra. and] and eke T₂. 392. heure Bo. hour Ar. M. Ad₁. whan] þat Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. this] the Ra. Ba. I. was] *om.* Ba. born] Iborn S. 393. deiecte] dyrecte E₁. directe E₂. 395. and] and þe Bo. Ra. P. 397. sort] force L₁. swart L₂. which] þat Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Lb. E₁. T₂. P. E₂. they Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. 398. second his] *om.* G. 399. helpe it] it helpe G. 400. whiche Bo. M. which Ad₁. sore] *om.* Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Lb. T₂. P. gan sore] sore gan Ro. muse] to muse Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. T₂. P. 402. Agayn Ad₁. Ayen Bo. M. Ayenste Lb. and gayn G. provide] to provyde Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. T₂. 403. Shape] To shape L₁. Shapyng Ad₁. Ad₂. I. P. remedy] a remedie Ad₁. to-forē] *om.* aforē Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. T₂. L₂. Ro. before Ra. Ba. P. I. be to forē Lb. final Di. 405. moderlys *with s underdotted* Ar. 406. it] hit Bo. Du. Lb. P. that Ar. þere G. 407. al] *om.* Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. T₂. P. all the Ad₂. I. 408. obeide Bo. obeied M. obeied Ad₁. 409. a] *om.* G. 410. her] she hir Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. P. ȝonge] *om.* M. Di. sone] childe Du. M. Di. she toke] toke Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. P. 412. To] And T₁. 413. pinge Ar. *and* 414. kynge Ar (*both final e underdotted*).

- They durste not delay it / nor abide,
 who take him to a forest to kill him. But to a Forest / that stood fer besyde, 416
 They took Her wey and faste gan hem spede
 The kyngges wille / to parforme in dede,
 Havyng^r therof / passyng^r hevynesse.
 But as he is so beautiful, But whan that they / beheelden the fairnesse 420
 Of the Chyld / and excellent^r beautè,
 In her hertè / they hadde grete pytè,
 And pleynty cast /, among hem was no stryf,
 That the child / shuldè* han his lif. 424
 And anon ful hygh / vpon a tre,
 In a placè / that no man myght se,
 they hang him up on a tree, by holes thru his feet. They henge hym vp / the story kan reherce.
 But first^r his feet^r / þorgh / they gan to perce, 428
 And on bowës tendre / tough, and smale,
 They knet^r hym vp / shortly þis is no tale,
 Hym to preserne / from bestys wilð and Rage.
 And after that / they* token her viage 43
 Toward Thebës / in alle the hast^r they may.
 ¶ But^r of fortunè / thilke samè day
 with her houndës / serchyng vp and douñ,
 The huntës went / of kyng^r poliboun 43
 Thorgh the forest / gamè forto fynde,
 Some aforn / and somè / cam behynde,

415. durst Bo. dorst M. Ad₁. 416. fer] pere Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. T₂. I. E₂. In Ra. and Ba. 416 and 417 are missing; in Ra. abide 415 is altered to a be to rhyme with in dede 418. 417. Her] the L₂. Ro. faste] fast þei Bo. T₁. D. L₁. Lb. P. gan] goune M. Di. T₂. 420. that] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. D. Ba. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. behelde Bo. M. Ad₁. 422. her] om. Di. herte] hertis L. P. they hadde] had they M. Di. 424. That] But that L₂. the] thys Ap. or T₂. shulde Bo. T₁. shuld Ar. M. Ad₁. Ra. shulde han] haue shold M. I. shulde playnly haue Ro. pleynty shuld haue Ap. 425. And anon] Anone the seruantis Ro. ful] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. T₂. P. E₂. fylle L₂. fel R^r hygh] om. L₂. Ro. 426. a] om. T₁. Du. T₂. E₂. that] ther L₂. se] it see B. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. T₂. P. E₂. 427. They henge hym vp] And hyngte th childe Ro. 428. þorgh] om. M. Di. Ba. gan] goune M. T₂. begonne Di. c Ba. to] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. first M (si þorgh they gan] þei gan þorgh Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. T₂. P. E₂. 430. shortly] o I. E₁. þis is no] in Ar. these words have been erased, but are still partly legible; the erasure is written to make a. þis is] þis G. thys Ro. om. Lb. no] the A. P. in Lb. 432. that] om. L₂. they] om. Ar. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. A. token] taken E₁. 436. went Ar. Bo. Du. M. Ad₁. wente Lb. Di. Ra. went T₁. 438. and some] and some ther Ra. Ba. cam] came L₁. Ad₂. Ap. carr T₁. com Lb. come Bo. Du. M. Di. Ra. Ba. E₁. E₂.

- And gan serch / and sekë wonder sore
 Among^t the hillës / and the holtës* hore. 440
 And as they Reenge / the trenchis by *and* by,
 They herde a noyse / and a pitous cry
 Of thys chyld / hangyng^t on the tre ;
 And aH at^t onys / drowë forto se, 444
 And lefte not^t til* they han hym founde ;
 And toke hym doune / *and* his fete vnbounde,
 And bare hym hom / vnto Polyboun,
 Kyng^t of Archadye / the famous Regioun. 448
 And whan that^t he / first^t þe chyld^t gan See,
 Of his woundës / he hadde grete pytë,
 To beholde / his tender fete / so blede ;
 And callëd hym / Edippus / as I rede, 452
 which is to seyn /, platly this no phage,
 Borëd the feete / as in that^t langage.
 And first^t the kyng^t in his Royal halle*
 Made his men / an norys for-to calle, 456
 This 3onge chylde to foster *and* to kepe
 With her Milk / that^t he nat^t ne wepe ;
 And his leches / he chargëd ek also,
 Til he were Hool / Her deuer forto do : 460
 Fully in purpoos* / for the child was fair,
 After his day / to maken hym his hayr ;
 For cause only /, who so taketh hede,
 Sone hadde he noon / be lynë to succede ; 464

hear the boy's
 cry,
 ¶ How the hun-
 tys of kyng Poli-
 boun fonde the
 chyld in þe
 forest and pre-
 sented hym to
 þe kyng.

take him down
 and carry him
 to King Polibon
 of Arcady,

who calls him
 'Edippus'
 = with bored
 feet,

has him nurst
 and doctord,

and means to
 make him his
 heir.

440. the hilles] hilles P. holtes] haltes Ar. G. 441. they] the Ar. renge
 Ad₁. rengen Bo. M. 444. drowe] drowe hem Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. T₂.
 P. E₂. Ap. drewe Ro. drow it Ad₁. E₁. S. drowe thedyr Ra. Ba. Ad₂. I. 445.
 til] to Ar. alone. 447. bare hym hom] hym bare home Du. 449. that he
 first þe chyld] þat he þe childe first T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₂. Bo (om.
 that). þat þe childe he first L₁. that] om. Ap. gan] can Ra. Ba. E₂. 450. Of]
 On Ba. Of his woundes] Off his sore woundes forsothe P. he hadde] had he M.
 Di. 451. so] om. Ro. 453. this] þis is Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba.
 T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. phage] fage Lb. T₂. P. face Ro. 455. halle] alle Ar.
 456. an Ar. a Bo. T₁. M. Ra. 458. he] hyt Ad₁ (seems to be altered from he).
 it Ad₂. I. ne] om. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. P. L₂. Ro. nat ne] ne natt
 Ap. 460. deuer G. T₁. Ad₁. Ra. devoire Bo. Du. deuoir M. deueur T₂.
 461. purpoos] propoos Ar. alone. the] þis Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. T₂. fair] so faire
 L₁. 462. hayr with h above the line Ar. 463. who so] whos Bo. T₁. L₁. Lb. M.
 whos so Di.

- [leaf 8, back] And Whether* that he had / a wif or noon,
I fyndē not / and therfor lat it goon.
¶ But by processe / of dayes and of 3eeris,
Edippus grows This Edyppus / among^t his pleyng^t feeris 468
up proud and was in his port^t / passyng^t ful of pride,
That^t noñ with hym / myght^t in pees abide.
In hert^t he was / so Inly Surquydows,
Malencolik^t / and Contrarious, 472
disdainful. Ful of despyt^t / and of hegh^t disleyñ,
That no wight^t durstē* / shortly hym with-seyñ ;
One day a Til on a day / he gan with oon debate
To whom he haddē / specyaly grete hate, 476
Which of Rancour / and of hasty tene,
As he that^t myght / His pridē not^t sustene,
Gan vpon hym / cruelly abrayde,
boy asks him And vnto hym felly / thus he saide : 480
why he's so proud : “ wherto,” quod he / “ artow so proude of port^t,
Contrarie also / euer / in oure disport^t,
Froward and felle / lastyng^t euere in oon,
As thow were lord / of vs euerichōñ, 484
And presumest^t fully in wyrehyng,
Lik as thow were sone / vnto the kyng,
And descended / of His Royal blood?

465. Whether] Wher Ar. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. T₂. Ap. om. E₂. that]
om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ra. Ba. a] om. Ra. Ba. 466. not] hit
not P. and] om. L₂. Ro. Ap. lat] I late Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. T₂. P.
E₂. Ro. Ap. it] om. T₂. 467. by] in T₁. of dayes and of 3eeris] by dayes and
by yeres Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. 469. in] of P. his] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁.
Lb. M. Di. Ra. Ba. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. 470. myght in pees] in pees myght M.
Di. L₁. P. L₂. Ro. 471. he was] was he M. Di. so] om. S. 472. and] and eke
M. Di. T₂. 474. durste Di. Ra. durst Ar. dorst Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. shortly
hym] him shortli Ad₁. hym] om. Ad₂. I. 476. specyaly grete] grete and
odyous Ro. 478. might His pride not] might not his pryde Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb.
M. Di. T₂. Ap. pride myht nat (his om.) Ra. Ba. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. myght not his
pres P. 479. cruelly] cruly L₁. truely E₁. abrayde] to abrayde Bo. T₁. Du. L₁.
Lb. M. Di. T₂. P. E₂. abrayde] obreide Ad₁. chide Ad₂. chide I. 480. vnto]
to Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ba. L₂. Ro. yet to Ad₂. I. felly] fully T₂. felly
thus] thus felly P. 481. artow Ar. Bo. T₁. M. Ra. ertow Ad₁. art thow Lb.
arthow T₂. ar tow Du. 485. presumest fully] fully presumest Bo. alone.
wyrehyng Ar. werching T₂. I. worching Ad₁. Ad₂. E₁. S. werking G. Bo. T₁.
Du. L₁. M. Di. Ra. Ba. P. E₂. Ro. Ap. workyng Lb. L₂. 486. vnto the] vnto
oure Bo. Ra. to the I. to a Lb.

But wher so be / thow be wroth or wood, 488

Thow art no thing /, and thow list takē hede,

Appartenyng / vnto his kynrede,

But in a Forest / founden *and* vnknewe,

whan thow were yonge /. therfor bere the lowe ! 492

And vttrely * remembre, ȝif the lyst,

Thy byrth and blood / ar bothe two vnwist.

This the fyne / shortly / of my tale.

Wherwith Edippus / gan to wexē * pale, 496

And chaunge also cheer and contenaunce,

And gan a-point / in his * remembraunce

Word be word / *and* forgat * right nouȝt,

And felly / musēd * / in his ownē thouȝt, 500

And cast he wold / with-oute more taryng

The trouthe enquire / of poliboun the kyng.

And whan he saugh / opportunē space,

And the kyng / in a * syerē place, 504

He hym bysoghte / lowly on his kne

To his request // benignely * to se,

And that he woldē / pleyndly / *and* not spare

Of his byrth / the trewē ground * declare, 508

And make hym sure / of this thyng anō

ȝif he were / his verrey sone or no.

He's not the
king's son,
but was found
in a forest,
and should be
humble.

[leaf 9]

Edippus is taken
aback by this,

and asks King
Polibon
to tell him about
his birth and
whether he is the
king's son.

488. But] *om.* L₁. wher] whether Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. E₂. wheper that L₁. T₂. so be] *om.* Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. so Ad₂. I. E₂. so euer P. thow be] thou Ba. S. L₂. 489. and] if Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. T₂. P. E₂. thow] þe Ad₁. Ba. E₂. take] to take Ra. 490. kyngrede Ar (*g underdotted*). After his, Ar. has a second pause-bar. 493. vttrely] vntrely Ar. wittirly Ra. wittrely Ba. remembre] remembre þee Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. S. T₂. P. E₂. the lyst] þou list L₁. M. Di. Ra. Ro. 494. and] or L₁. ar bothe two] bothe two arn M. Di. ar] *om.* Lb. two] *om.* P. 495. This] This is T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. L₂. Ro. 496. Edippus] Egippus Ar. wexe Di. Ad₂. I. waxe Bo. M. wex Ar. G. Ad₁. 498. gan] gan to Di. T₂. M (tapoynte). a-point] pointe T₂. apeinte E₂. his] her Ar. G. 498 *om.* Ba. 499. forgat] foryeteth Lb. feyned Ar. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. 500. mused] musen Ar. G. Ro. Ap. to muse Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. his owne] this and aboue E₂. 503. opportune] oportune and L₂. Ro. tyme and oportune Lb. In Ra. l. 503 is perfectly legible (= Ar.), but a later hand has struck through the whole line and written in the margin: and whan yat he had found convenient space. 504. a] *om.* Ar. G. Ra. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. secre Bo. M. secreet Ad₁. secrete G. 504 *om.* Ba. 506. benignely] benignly Ar. G. Du. beningly Ad₁. Ad₂. I. T₂. Ro. Ap. 508. trewe Bo. trew M. the trewe ground] the trewe troupe Ar. G. E₁. þe soth trouthe Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S (sothe underdotted by Stow). the treuthe Ro. declare] to declare L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. Ro. 510. Ar. has a second pause-bar after verrey.

- Of Appollo / in storie as is tolde,
 Whos statue / stood / in a char of golde 536 whose statue is
 On* whelës four / boornyd bright *and* shene; in a chariot
 And with-In a spirit / ful vnclene, of gold,
 Be fraude only / and fals collusioun, but an unclean
 Answer gaf / to euery questioun, 540 spirit is inside
 Bryngyng^t the puple in ful gret^t errour, it.
 Such as to hym dyden fals honour
 Be Rytys vsed in the oldë dawes
 Aftere custome / of paganysmes* lawes. 544
 And Edyppus / with ful humble chere,
 To Appollo makëd His preiere, Edippus prays
 Besechyng^t hym on his kneës lowe, to be told of
 Be some signë / that^t he myghte knowe, 548 what kin he is.
 Thorg^t Evidencë Shortly comprehendyd,
 Of what kynredë / that^t he was discendyd.
 ¶ And whan Edyppus be gret^t deuocioun,
 Fynysshëd hath / fully his orysoun, 552
 The fend* anoñ / with-Innen Invisybte,
 With a vois dredful and horrible, The invisible
 Bad hym in hast^t / taken his viage Fiend
 Toward^t Thebës / wher of his lynage 556 bids him go to
 He herën shal / and be certefied. Thebes and there
 learn his lineage.
- And on his way / anoñ he hap hym hyed,
 by hasty Iournë / so his hors constreyned

535. is] it is Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra (it crossed out by a later hand). Ba. E₁. S. T₂. P. 537. On] Of Ar. G. S. And Lb. and] as golde P.
 538. with-In] ther with-yn M. Di. T₂. yn hit Ad₁. Ad₂. I. ful] right Lb.
 539. collusioun] conclusion S. illusion Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. T₂. P. E₂.
 542. dyden Ar. E₁. diden Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. deden Lb.
 T₂. dydden P. did L₁. S. E₂. L₂. dyd Ap. fals] om. Bo. Ad₂. I. the false P.
 544. custome] þe custome Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. T₂. E₂.
 the customs P. paganysme Ar. G. Ap. (see Notes). paganymes Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb.
 M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. T₂. E₂. paganyes Ra. Pagayns Ba. paganis P.
 paynemis L₂. 546. To] Vnto Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. T₂. maketh Ar. M.
 Ad₁. made Bo. Du. maade Ra. maad T₁. maketh G. 547. lowe] ful lowe
 Ra. 548. that] om. Ad₁. might Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra. 549. comprehendit Bo.
 Du. M. Ad₁. 550. kynred Bo. M. Ad₁. kynrede Ra. descendit Bo. Du. M.
 Ad₁. 553. The fend] The finde T₂. He fond Ar. S. Ad₁. He founde E₁. Ad₂.
 I. He herde Ra. Ba. anon] a soun Ra. Ba. with-Innen Ar. Ad₁. S. Ap.
 withynne Ra. withyn Bo. and the rest, except Ed₁, that has wyminen. anon
 with-Innen] with-yn anon M. Di. 554. With a vois] That was both Ra. Ba.
 555. haste Bo. M. Ad₁. taken Ad₁. take Bo. M.

[leaf 10] On the road, Edippus stops at the castle Pylotes,	Day be day / til he haþ atteyned Vnto* a castel / Pylotës ycalled, Rich and strong ^r / and wel aboute walled, Adiacent ^r / be syyt ^r of the contrè And perteynent ^r * to Thebes the Cytè :	560 564
where his un- known father, King Layus, is holding a Tour- nament.	¶ kyng ^r Layvs / beyng ^r ther present, For-to holde a maner tornement ^r With his knyghtës / 3ong ^r and coraious, And other folkës / that ^r were desyrous To preue hem-silf / , shortly for-to telle, Who by force / other* myght ^r excelle, Or gete a namè / thorgh his hegh ^r prouesse. Euerich of hem / dyd his bysynesse	568 572
¶ How Edippus slogh his fader of ignorance at þe castel.	On hors-bak / and also ek on foote, Al be that ^r somè founde ful vnsote, Rather a pley of werrè / than of pees ; Wher Edyppus put hym-silf in prees, As he that ^r was / ay redy to debat ^r , Enforsyng hym / to entren at the gate, Maugrè aH tho / that ^r hym woldè* lette. ¶ And in the pres / of aventure he mette Kyng ^r layvs / and cruelly hym slogh, Thow the story / writ ^r not ^r the maner howh, Ne no wight ^r can / of alle the companye	576 580

560. haþ] haue Lb. hath hym Ra. 561. Vnto a] Vnta Ar. ycalled] called T₁. Di. T₂. is called L₂. 562. aboute walled] aboute I-walled Ba. S. aboute iwalled E₂. 563. syyt Ar. syet Bo. T₁. M. Di. syght G. sight E₁. T₂. L₂. cyyt Ad₁. ryte Ad₂. right I. side L₁. the] that M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. In Ra. l. 563 reads Wele I-stuffid of al thyng plentye (= Ba.) 564. perteynent Ra. E₁. perceyent Ar. G. parteyent S. pertenant Ba. pertinent Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Apperteyning T₁. Lb. Di. appertenyng Bo. Du. M. 567. corageus Bo. corayus M. preue Lb. L₁. Ad₂. L₂. prone Bo. T₁. Du. Ad₁. Ra. T₂. 570. Who] Who that E₂. other] oither Ar. othermyght] might other L₁. Ra. Ba. 572. Euerich] eche Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. his] here Lb. 573. also ek] ek also M. also] om. E₂. ek] om. L₁. Lb. Di. 574. Al be that] And al be that Ra. Al be hit þat P. Albe though Lb. And by that L₂. founde] founde it L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. T₂. P. E₂. Ap. (see Notes). ful] al Bo. T₁. Du. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. sor I₁. sone L₂. om. Lb. M. Di. 575. pley] pleyer Ar. 577. he] om. T₁. ay] om. Di. Ad₂. I. P. 578. entren Bo. Ad₁. entre M. 579. all tho] all hem T₂. of tho Bo. of all thoo Ba. wolde Bo. wold Ar. M. hym wolde] wold him Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. 582. pogh Bo. though Du. 583. In Ar. a pause-bar also after wight.

- Be no signē / verrelly espye 584
- By whos hond / that the kyng^t was slawe ;
- For Edyppus in hast / gan hym with-drawe Edippus with-
draws in haste.
- And kept hym Coy / of entencioun.
- Gret was the noyse / *and* the pitous souñ 588
- In the Castel / for slaughter of the kyng^t,
- Dooel and compleynt / sorowe *and* wepyng^t.
- ¶ But for they segh / hevynesse *and* thoght^t [leaf 10, back]
- Ageynēs deth · vayleth lit or noght^t, 592
- They ordeyne with Ryytys ful Royal
- For the feste / callēd / Funeral.
- And lik the custom / of the dayēs olde,
- The corps they brent / into ashes colde, 596 King Layus's
corpse is burnt,
and the ashes put
in a vessel of
gold.
- And in a vessel / rounde, mad as a bal,
- They closēd hem in gold *and* in metal.
- And after that did her bysy Cure
- In Thebēs to make a sepulture, 600
- And richely, hem list no lenger lette,
- The asshe didē* they enclose *and* shette. King Layus's
ashes are put in
a shrine.
- Of this matere / ther ys* no mor to seyn.
- But to Edippus / I wil retourne ageyn, 604
- Which hym enhastē / ay fro day to day
- Towardēs Thebes / in al that euere he may,
- Brennyng in herte / hoot as eny fire,
- The fyn to knowe / of his fatal desire. 608
- ¶ But, for that he failēd / of a Guyde,
- Out of his way / he wente fer be-side,

584. verrelly] *it verreili* Ad₁. Ra. Ba. T₂. E₂. P. verily *it* S. even verily Ad₂. I. 586. in hast gan hym] *gan hym in hast* E₂. L₂. gan in haste P. in hast] *om.* Du. with-drawe] *to withdrawe* Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. T₂. S. drawe Ap. 589. slaughter] *the slaughter* Di. 592. Ageynēs Ar. G. ageynys Ap. ageyns Bo. T₁. ayens M. Ageinst Ad₁. E₁. Ayenst Lb. vayleth] *auaileth* Du. L₁. M. Di. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. lit Ar. G. lite Bo. E₂. L₂. light Lb. litel T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. P. Ap. 593. rightes Bo. 594. feste Bo. feste Du. Ad₁. 596. cors Bo. M. Ad₁. *In* Ar. *is an underdotted p between they and* brent. 599. after that] *afterward* Du. 601 *and* 602 *om.* in Ad₂. I. 602. didn Ra. dide M. T₁. Du. dede Ad₁. did Ar. Bo. 603. ys] *nys* Ar. 604. retourne] *turne* G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. wil] *om.* P. 605. ay] *om.* Du. 606. Towardes Ar. G. Toward Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Ad₁. in al that euere] *in al þe hast* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. he] *om.* S. euere he] *euereche* G. 607. hert Bo. M. Ad₁. 609. that] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. T₂. 610. went Bo. M. Ad₁.

¶ How Edippus
passed by the
hyll wher the
monstre lay that
was called
Spynx.

Thorgh a wylde / and a waast contrè,
By a mounteyn / that stood vpon the see, 612
Wher that monstres / of many dyuers kynde
Were conuersaunt / in story as I fynde;
Amongës* which / sothly ther was oñ,
So Inly cruel / that no man durst goñ, 616
For drede of deth / forby that passage.

¶ The descrip-
cioun of the foule
Monstre.

This monstre was so mortal in his rage,
which hadde also / be descripcioun,
Body and feet / of a fers lyoun; 620
And lik a mayde in soth was hede *and* face,

[leaf 11]

Fel of his look / and cruel to manace,
And odyous of countenaunce and sight;
¶ And as I redè / Spynx / this monstre hight, 624
Wors than Tygre / dragon / or serpent.

The Sphinx
slays all passers-
by who can't
solve the Prob-
lem he sets
them.

And I supposè / by enchaument
He was ordeynèd / on the hyl tabyde, 628
To sleen aH tho / that passèden be-syde,
And specially / aH that didnen* fayle
To expowne / his mysty dyvynaile,
His problem ek / in wordès pleyn *and* bare
With-oute avys / opynly to* declare, 632
Or with the lif / he myghte not eslake.
This verray soth platly *and* no Iape.

¶ And 3if that he, be declaracioun,
3af ther-vpon / cleer exposicioun, 636
He shuld in hast / there was noñ *oper* mene,

615. Amonge Lb. E₁. Among Ar. *and the rest.* 615—726 lost in T₁. 617
forby] forthby Lb. M. T₂. P. E₂. sothly Di. 619. Ar. *has a pause-bar also*
between hadde and also. 622. Fel] Full P. to] of Di. to his Ad₃. I. 623
odyous] hidious Lb. sight] of sight Bo. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁.
624. I] *om.* G. 626. by] þat by Du. Ad₁. Ad₃. I. be somme T₂. that bi some
Lb. þat it be Bo. L₁. 627. tabyde G. Ad₁. to abyde Bo. M. 628. tho
om. T₂. Ap. passeden] passid L₁. T₂. P. L₂. passen Ad₁. Ad₃. I. passeth Lb.
be-syde] forthe besyde Lb. T₂. þer beside P. L₂. him beside Ba. 629. diden
M. Di. Ad₁. T₂. deden S. dide Du. dede G. did Ar. Bo. Lb. 632. avys] i
mysse E₁. opynly] plainly T₂. P. fully E₂. to] *om.* Ar. G. E₁. L₂. Ap. 633
he] *om.* G. might Bo. Ad₁. Ra. myghty M. 634. This] þis is Bo. Du. L₁. Lb.
E₁. S. P. E₂. L₂. The Di. soth Bo. Ad₁. sothe M. Ra. soth] sothe is Ad₂
platly] *om.* L₂. pleylny Ra. Ba. P. E₂. shortly T₂. 633 *and* 634 are transposed
in Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 636. 3af 3if G.

Sleen this monstre / for al his cruel tene.

Ther may of mercy / be / noñ oþer graunte.

But of al this Edyppus ignoraunte, 640

This dredful hiH / stondyng on a roche,

Er he was war / gan ful nygh approche,

More perilous platly / than he wende.

And sodeynly / the monster* gan* descende, 644

To stoppen his way / and letten his passage,

Thus abraydyng^t with a fel corage :

¶ "I haue in herte Inly gret^t disport^t

That^t fortune / hap broght^t the to my sort, 648

To make a preef* / 3if thow mayst endure,

The fatal ende / of this auenture,

Set^t at a fyn / sothly be daiës olde."

And by *and* by / al the caas hym tolde, 652

Charging^t hym to be wel war *and* wise,

[leaf 11, back]

Gete the palme / and bere away the pryse

Touchyng^t this thyng^t / sette a-twene vs tweyñ, 656

¶ And this Monstre / with a despitous chere

his problem gan / thus as 3e shal here.

¶ "Ther is a beest^t merveilous to se,

The which in soth^t at^t his natiuyte 660

Is of his myght^t / so tender and so grene,

That he may hym-siluë* nat^t sustene

Vpon his fete / thogh he hadde it sworñ,

But 3if that^t he / be / of his moder born. 664

Edippus is
stopt by the
Monster, the
Sphinx, and
charged to solve
the Problem he'll
be set.

¶ Of the problem
that Spynx putte
to Edippus.

'There's an
animal which, at
its birth, can't
walk.

638. slee Bo. M. 640. of] for Du. Lb. Ra. E₁. 642. er Bo. Lb. or
M. 644. monster] moyster Ar. gan] can Ar. 645. stoppen. letten Bo. Du.
M. Ad₁. stoppyn. letten Lb. stoppyn. lettyn Ra. stoppe. let L₂. 646. Thus]
This M. Di. abraydyng] obreidinge Ad₁. Ad₂. I. fel] full P. E₂. corage] rage
T₂. 647. I haue] Seide I haue T₂. E₂. And seyde I haue P. in herte] in my
herte P. I haue in herte] In hert I haue Bo. in herte Inly] inly in hert Ad₂. I.
Inly] om. P. 648. hap broght the] hath the broght M. Di. the] om. G. P.
649. a preef] a preest Ar. G. Ad₁. E₁. S. 651. sothly] oonly Di. 653. wel]
om. L₂. 655. a-twene vs] at Ad₂. I. 656. or] and G. Ad₂. I. which] om.
Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 658. gan] bigan Lb. thus] om. Lb. T₂. like P. 3e shal] yee
shul Bo. Lb. Di. T₂. P. E₂. 659. beest Bo. best M. Ad₁. 661. Is] As Bo.
662. hymselfe, cf. 710. hymselfe Lb. hymselfe L₁. Ra. P. hymself Ar. himself
Bo. M. Ad₁. hymself nat Ar. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ap. not himself Bo. Du. L₁. Lb. M.
Di. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. not hymselfe not P. 664. 3if] om. M. Di.

- And afterwardës / be processe of age,
 Then it goes on 4 feet; On fourë fete / he makeþ his passage;
 then on 3; After on thre- / if I shal not feyne,
 at last on 2. And alderlast / he goþ vpright on tweyne; 668
 Dyuers of port / and wonderful of cherys:
 Til, be length / of many sondry 3eeres,
 Then on 3 again, Naturely / he goth ageyn on thre,
 then on 4, And sith on foure, it may non oþer be, 672
 and finally goes And Fynaly / this the trouthe* pleyn,
 back to the he retourneth / kyndely ageyn
 matter it came To the matere / whiche that he kam fro.
 from. ¶ loo / her is al / my problem is I-do. 676
 Solve this, Muse her-vpon / with-outë werre or stryff
 or die.' It to declare / or ellis lese thy lyff."
 Edippus thought And whan Edyppus / gan this ping aduerte,
 over the puzzle, Wel assurëd in his manly herte, 680
 Gan in his wytt cerchen vp *and* douñ,
 And of prudencë / east in his resoun,
 Be grete avis / what thyng this may be;
 [leaf 12] Seyng also / that he may not flee, 684
and how ther was / counsel noon ne rede,
 But tellë trouth / or ellys to be dede.
 And be ful good / deliberacioun
 Thus he answerd / in conclusioun, 688
 'Thowe Spynx' quod he / 'fals and fraudulent!
 Thow foulë* Monstre / thow dragon, thow serpent!
 whiche on this hyl / lich as I conceyve,
 lyst in a-waite / folkës to deceyue, 692

665. aftrewardes Bo. afterward M. Ad₁. 668. vpright] vpritht Ar. vp-rygl
 G. 671. Naturely Bo. M. Naturely Ad₁. namely Ad₂. I. 672. sith] om
 Bo. ette P. it] as P. 673. this] þis is Bo. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba.
 E₁. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. tronthe Lb. M. Ad₁. trouth Ar. Bo. 675. which] om. P.
 that] om. G. Lb. M. Di. Ra. Ba. S. Ap. 676. is I-do Ar. G. P. is do Di. Ap.
 do (om. is) Bo. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. L₂. Lo here my
 probleme, is all ido E₂. In Ar. a third pause-bar after problem. 677. without
 Bo. withoute M. Ad₁. 679. gan] can E₂. 681. his] om. G. 684. also
 allone Di. may] might T₂. Ap. not] om. Du. 685. and] om. G. was] na
 Ad₂. counsel] om. L₂. noon] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. ne] nor M. Ra. E₁. Ap. oþe
 L₂. to Bo. Du. and I. 686. telle] to telle Du. 688. Thus] This Lb
 answerd Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra. answered Lb. answerid Di. 690. foule] vyle Ar. G.
 L₂. Ap. (see Notes). 691. which Ar. Ap. L₂. That Bo. *and the rest.*

But truste wel / for al thy sleghty wit,
 Thy falsë* fraudë / shal anoñ be qwyte.
 Me list not nowe whisper neither rowne,
 But thy problem / I shal anoñ expowne
 So opynly / thow shalt not go therfro.
 loo! this it is /. tak good hede therto!
 ¶ Thilkë* best thow spak of herto-forñ,
 Is euery man / in this world yborn,
 Which may not goñ / his lymës be so softe,
 Bot as his moder / bereth hym alofte
 In her armes / whan he doth crye or* wepe.
 And after that / he gynnetñ forto crepe
 On fourë* feet in his tendre 3outh,
 Bexperience / as it is oftë kouth,
 A-forñ yrekned / his hondës bothë* two.
 And by processe / thow mayst consider also
 With his two fete / for al thy fellë tene,
 He hath a staf / hym-seluen to sustene,
 And than he goth / shortly vpon thre.
 And alther-last / as it most nedës be,
 Voyding^t his staf / he walkeþ vpon tweyn:
 Til it so be / thorgh agë / he atteyn,
 That lust of 3outhë wasted be and spent;
 Than in his hond / he taketh a potent,
 And on thre feet / thus he goth ageyn,

696 and solvd its Problem.

¶ How Edippus expounded the problem that Spynx put to hym.

700 'The Animal is every man, who can't walk as a babe, but is carried,

704 then he crawls on 4 feet, his hands and knees,

708 then on 3, his 2 feet and a stick,

712 then on 2 feet only.

716 [leaf 12, back] When he gets older, he takes a staff again, or goes on three feet;

694. fals Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. 695. In Ar. the pause-bar, in Bo. the high point is put after whisper. 697 in the rubric Egippus. 698. this] thus E₁. it is] is it Ra. Ba. take Bo. M. Ad₁. tak good hede therto] make goode chere too Ba. thou shalt not goo therfro (repeated from 697) Di. 699. Thilke Bo. Lb. Ad₁. Thilk Ar. M. This Du. 699 om. Ba. thow] þat thon L₁. herto-forñ Ar. G. Lb. E₂. Ap. here beforñ Bo. Du. M. Di. Ad₁ (er bifern). Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. T₂. P. beforñ L₁. to-forñ L₂. 700. worlde Bo. Du. Lb. M. world Ad₁. T₂. yborn] born Bo. Du. I₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. T₂. P. 702. alofte] vp alofte Ad₁. Ad₂. I. on lofte Ra. Ba. Lb. 703. or] and Ar. G. Lb. Di. 705. On] On his Ad₁. Ad₂. I. foure Bo. M. Ad₁. four Ar. 706. Pexperience mis-written Ar. By experience Bo. M. Ad₁. oft Bo. ofte M. Ad₁. 707. bothe L₁. M. Ad₁. both Ar. Du. bothe] om. Bo. ben Lb. 709. his] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. fel Bo. Du. felle] cruel M. Di. 710. him-seluen Bo. Ad₁. him-self M. Du. 711. he goth] goth he M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 712. as] om. Ra. it] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. most (must)] mot Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Di. 714. thorgh] to Ra. that Ba. he] þat he Bo. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. 717. thre] his Ad₁. Ad₂. I. thus] om. P. he goth] goth he M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂.

I dar afferme / thow maist^t it^t not^t withseyn,
 And sone aftere / thorgh his vnweldy myght,
 By influence / of naturys right^t, 720
 Bexperience / as euery man may knowe,
 Lich a child^t / on foure he crepeth^t lowe.
 And for he may no whyl^e* here sojourne,
 To erth^t ageyn / he most^t in hast^t retourne, 724
 Which he kam fro /, he may it^t not^t renewe*.
 For in this world / no man may eschewe,
 This verray soth / shortly and no doute,
 Whan the wheel of kyndē comēth aboute, 728
 And naturely hath his cours y-Ronne
 Be circuite / as doth^t the shenē sonne,
 That^t man *and* chyl^t / of hegh *and* lowe estat,
 It^t geyneth nat^t / to makē / mor debat, 73
 His tymē sette / that^t he mostē* fyne,
 Whan Autropos / of malice doth vntwyne
 His lyvēs thred / by Cloto first compowned.
 Loo / her thy problem / fully is expowned, 73
 At^t oure metynge / as I took on honde,
 To the lawe / that^t thow most nedēs stonde
 And in al hast / of myn hondēs deye,
 But of reson / thow can it^t ought^t withseye.’ 74
 And so this Spynx / awapyd and amaati,

and at last he
 crawls on all
 fours like a child.

When he dies, he
 goes back to
 earth.

So your Problem
 is solved,

and I shall at
 once kill you.’

718. dar] dar it Bo. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. maist i
 maist Bo. Lb. Ra. it not] not it G. M. Ba.; *in* P. l. 718 *is*: I dar seyne I
 may not be withseyn. withseyn] withstonde L₁. 721. By experience Bo. I
 Ad₁. 722. lowe] a lowe Du. 723. while Bo. wile Ad₁. whyl Ar. no why
 here] here no while Bo. Du. M. Ad₁. 724. in hast] *om.* Ra. Ba. S. ageyn
 most in hast] in hast he must ageyn L₁. in soth he must agein Ad₁. Ad₂.
 ayen he muste ayen P. 725. renewe Ar. G. Du. L₁. Lb. S. renue Ad₁. E₁. T
 renewe Di. Ra. Ba. P. E₂. L₂. remue Bo. M. remue Ap. rewe Ad₂. I. 72
 worde Bo. world M. Ad₁. 729. y-ronne Bo. Ad₁. ronne Du. M. Di. 73
 circuite Bo. circuyt M. Ad₁. 732. make Bo. mak Ad₁. mor] no G. wi
 him Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 733. sette] ysette P. is sett Ra. Ba. Ad₂. he] *om.* I
 moste Lb. Di. most Ar. M. Ad₁. must Bo. T₁. 735. lyves] lyf is Bo. I
 lyff ys Du. lyffe his L₁. first] *om.* Ra. Ba. 738. that] *om.* Bo. T₁. Du. I
 Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 740. But] For E₂. *om.* Ad₂. I. can] car
 L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. T₂. E₂. *om.* P. ought] owt Lb. oute Ra. not Ad₂.
 P. E₂. *om.* Ba. 741. so] thoo T₂. P. I₂. Ap. *om.* E₂. amaati] al mat A
 Ad₂. I. awapyd and amaati] dismayed and dissolaat Lb. (*cp.* 742).

Stood / disamayëd / and dysconsolaat,
 With Chier doune-cast / Muët, pale, *and* ded.
 And Edippus anoñ smote of the hed 744 Edippus cuts the
 Of this fende / styntyng^r and vnswete, Sphinx's head
 And the Contrè sette holy in quyetè ; off,
 [leaf 19]
 Wherby he hath / such a pris ywonne
 That his fame is euery cost^r yronne 748
 Thorgh al the londe / that he the monstre hath slawe.
 And lynë-right / to Thebës he gan drawe,
 Wel receyuëd / for his worthynesse, is well receivd
 at Thebes,
 For his manhode / and his grete* prouesse. 752
 And for they segh / he was a semly knyght,
 Wel fauourëd / in euery mannys sight,
 And sawh also Thebës the myghty toun,
 Not^r only they / but al the Region, 756 and as the
 Thebans have
 only a Queen,
 Weren destitut / of a gouernour,
 A3eynst^r her foon / hauyng^r no socour
 Hem to defendë* / but^r the quene alloñ ;
 Among^r hem-self / makyng^r ful gret moñ, 760
 For heire was noñ / as bookës specifie,
 The Sceptre / or crownë forto occupie :
 For which the lordës aH be oñ assent
 with-Inne the touñ / set^r a parlement, 764
 Shortly concludyng / if it myghte beñ,

742. disamayd] dismayde Bo. T₁. L₁. Lb. M. Di. P. L₂. Ap. all dismaide T₂.
 E₂ Ad₂. I. dysconsolaat] dissolaat Lb. desolate P. 743. Muët] om. G. Muët
 pale and ded] hevy as any lede T₂. P. E₂. fully dysmaide L₂. 744. the] his Bo.
 L₂. Ba. 746. sette holy] holy sette M. Di. T₂. holy] onely Ad₂. I. 747.
 Wherby] Where Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 748. is euery cost] is in euery cost L₁. M. Di. is
 in-to e. c. Ad₂. I. euery cost is L₂. Ap. in euery cost is T₂. P. E₂. yronne] ronne
 T₁. L₁. M. Di. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. 749. Thorgh] In T₂. That thurgh P. al] om.
 Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. that he the monstre hath] pat he hath þe monstre Bo. T₁.
 pat the monstre was T₂. E₂ (this for the). the monstre was P. pat þe monstre is
 Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 750. And] and as Bo. gan] gan him Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di.
 Ad₁. Ra. S. began Ad₂. I. drawe] to drawe Ad₂. I. Ap. he gan drawe]
 worthynes Ba (the end of 750 and the whole of 751, except the rhyme-word, om.).
 752. grete] om. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. P. E₂. ri3t Ar. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. high T₂. L₂. Ap.
 753. sye Bo. M. Ad₁. a] om. T₂. semly] manful M. Di. manly Ba. 754.
 favoured] y-favored P. euery] eche M. Di. 755. sawe Bo. M. sawh also]
 saugh Ad₁. Ad₂. I. se also L₁. 757. weren Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Ad₁.
 Ra. E₁. were L₁. and the rest. 759. defende Bo. T₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ra. defend
 Ar. 761. heire] there Ad₂. I. E₁. S. 762. or] and T₂. P. E₂. crownë] the
 crownë Ad₂. L₂. forto] to M. Di. Ad₂. S. P. E₂. L₂. 764. with-Inne] whiche in
 Bo. 765. might Bo. M. Ad₁.

they resolve to
ask her to wed
Edippus, and
make him King.

Prudently to trete with the quene,
Namely they / that helde hem-silf most^t sage,
To condescende / be way of Mariage,
She to be Ioyned to this manly knyght,
Passing prudent^t / *and* famous ek of myght^t,
Most likly man /, as they can discerne,
The worthy Cytè / to kepen and gouerne.

768

772

And thorgh counsayl / of the lordës alle
To her desyre / pleynty / she is falle,
And accorded / with-oute mor taryng,
That^t of Thebës / Edippus shal be kyng^t,

776

[leaf 13, back]

By ful assent^t /, was non that^t seidè * nay.
And tymè set^t / ageyn a certeyn day
Among^t hem-silf / and finally devysed,
The weddyng^t was / in Thebës solempnyzed

780

Edippus marries
his Mother, not
knowing it,

Ful ryally, which nedës most^t vnthryve,
Only for he his moder / toke to wyve,
Vnwist^t of bothè * / he was of her blode,
And ignoraunt^t /, shortly, how it^t stode,

784

or that he'd slain
his Father.

That he to-forn hadde his fadere slawe,
For which this weddyng^t was ageyn the lawe.

God will not
that blood
touch blood.

And to-for god / is neiper feire ne good,
Nor acceptable / blood to touche blood :
Which cause hath ben of gret^t confusioun
In many londe / and many Regyoun,

788

Grounde *and* roote / of vnhap *and* meschaunce,

It leads to
disaster.

The fyn concludyng / alway with vengeaunce,
As men han seie / by cleer experience ;

792

766. trete Bo. M. Ad₁. 767. sage] age G. 769. manly] famous Ad₁. Ad₁. I. om. S. 772. to] om. Ad₁. kepen Bo. Ad₁. kepe M. gouerne] to gouer M. L₂. 775. tarynge Ar (e *underdotted*). taryng Bo. M. taryng Ad₁. 777. seide T₁. M. Lb. Ra. seid Ar. Bo. Ad₁. 781. rially Bo. M. Roialli Ad₁. need Bo. nedus Ad₁. 782. he his moder toke] he tok his moder Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 783. bothe T₁. Du. M. Ad₁. Ra. Ap. both Ar. Bo. L₁. Lb. bothyn L₂. 784. hou^t pat Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 785. to-forn Ar. tofore Bo. M. 785—788 *are missing* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 786. For which] Wherfor M. Di. For which thing Ba. this] Di. om. Ba. 790. londe and many] londis and Ad₂. I. 792. concludy alway] alway concludyng G. Ad₂. I. 793. seie Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. Ad₁. A seyn L₁. Ra. E₂. seyn T₂. seyne L₂. see Ad₂. I. seen M. Di. E₁. S. P.

And holy writ / recordeth in sentence

How herodës / falsly in his lyff

Herod took his
brother's wife,

By violencë toke his brother wyf,

796

For she was faire / and plesaunt to his sight,

And kepte her stille / be forcë* / þorgh his myght,

Al be to her* / he haddë / title noñ ;

And for her sake / the holy man seynt Iohn

800 thru which
John the Baptist
lost his head.

For his trouth / in prison lost his hede.

Therfor I rede / euery man take hede,

Beware, then,

Wherso he be Pryncë, lorde, or kyng,

That he be* war teschewë such weddyng,

804

Er that the swerde / of vengeaunce hym manace,

lest he lesë / hap, fortune, *and* grace ;

Takyng ensample / in al manere thyng

Of Edyppus / in Thebës crownëd kyng ;

808 [leaf 14]
by Edyppus,
who, tho' he sind
in ignorance.

Al be that he wrought of ignoraunce,

Ful derk and blynde / of his woful chaunce.

And 3if vnwist / he of Innocence,

As 3e han herde, fil in such offence,

812

For which he was punishëd* *and* brought lowe,

was punisht.

What ar* they worthy that her errorr knowe,

And fro the knottë / list not to abstene

Of such spousale / to god *and* man vnclene ?

816

I can not seyn / nor mor therof devise.

Demeth 3our-silf that prudent ben *and* wise,

And Edippus / hath among in mynde,

The wedding
of Edyppus

794. recordeth] recordeth it Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. 796. toke] take
G. his] om. G. brother Ar. T₁. Di. brothre Du. brotheres Lb. brotheres Bo.
brothres Ad₁. Ra. brotheris Ad₂. I. brothers G. L₁. T₂. brothirs L₃. 798.
force Bo. Ra. Ad₁. fors Ar. T₁. þorgh] of M. Di. 799. Al be] All be hit L₁.
Al though Lb. E₂. hur Ar. hire Bo. hir M. here Ad₁. hadde Du. Lb. had
Bo. Ad₁. he hadde title] title had he M. Di. Ra. Ba. E₁. T₂. P. E₂. had he title
L₁. 804. be] om. Ar. G. teschewe Ar. to eschewe Bo. G. and eschewe Lb.
Ad₁. Ad₂. I. P. 805. Ere Bo. T₁. Or Lb. M. Ad₁. Ra. hym] of E₁. 806.
lese Bo. Ad₁. Ra. lose M. 811. 3if] yit Lb. vnwist he] he wist Ad₂. I. And
3if vnwist he] And he vnwetyng and Ra. 812. han Bo. Ad₁. haue M. fil] fall
Ad₂. I. 813. punished Ar. G. Lb. punysshed Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra. Ap. 814.
omitted in Lb. ar Bo. are T₂. er Ar. G. ere Ad₁. arn M. 815. knotte Du.
Lb. Ra. knott Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. abstene] absteyne (: vnclene) Bo. Lb. E₂. (: vncleyne)
Ra. S. 816. spousale Ar. G. M. spousaile Bo. spousail Ad₁. spousales Lb.
817. seyn] seen E₁. nor] ne Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. T₂.
E₂. no Lb. E₁. L₂. ner P. 819. hath Ar. G. L₂. Ap. haue Bo. T₁. Lb. M.
Ad₁. Ra. hauith T₂. among] om. S.

Of whom the weddyng, lik as ȝe may fynde, 820
 was unhappy. Vnhappy was / and passing^t odious,
 Infortunēd / and vngracious.
 I am wery mor therof to write.
 The hatful processe / also to endyte 824
 I passe ouer, fully of entent;
 For ymenēus / was not ther present,
 Nor lucyna / list^t not ther to shyne,
 None of the 828
 Nine Muses
 was at it, Ne ther was none / of the musys nyne
 By on accord / to makē melodye;
 For ther song^t not^t be heuenly Armonye
 Neither Clys / nor Calyopē,
 On of the sustren / in nombre thriēs thre, 832
 as they were at
 Philology's mari-
 riage in Heaven
 to Mercury : As they dydē* whan philologye
 Ascendid vp hegh aboue the skye
 To be weddid / this lady vertuous
 Vnto hir lord / þe god mercurius; 836
 see Martianus de
 Capella. As Marcian ynamēd / de Capelle,
 In his book of weddyng can ȝou telle,
 [leaf 14, back] Ther concludyng^t in this mariage
 The poete, that^t whilom was so sage, 840
 That^t this lady, callēd sapience,
 I-wedded was vnto eloquence;
 As it^t sat wel, by heuenly purueaunce,
 hem to be ioyned / be knot^t of Aliaunce. 844
 But^t bothē* two, sothly, of entent

822. Infortunēd] Infortunat Du. Ad₂. S. E₂. and] and eke M. Di. T₂. (*in Ra. the later hand has added eke above the line*). eke and P. 823. mor therof] therof more M. Di. and therof more E₁. 826. ymeneus] Imnus or Innus Ad₂. I. 827. list Bo. M. Ad₁. 828. ther] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. musys] Musas E₂. 829. *omitted in Ra.* By on] Of oure E₁. make Bo. M. Ra. maken Ad₁. 832. On] Non C. T₂. P. E₂. sustren Ar. Bo. Du. Lb. Ad₁. T₂. sistren T₁. systryn L₂. sustren L₁. sustres M. Di. sostres C. sistres Ra. systers P. in nombre] nombred C. 833. dide T₁. Du. M. E₁. S. dede Ad₁. T₂. diden C. dyd Ar. Bo. Ra. whan] whan þat Ad₁. Ad₂. I. philogye Ar. Bo. T₁. Ad₁. Philologie Di. Ad₂. Philolaie E₂. Philology C. T₂. philolis P. (:skies). 834. vp hegh] hi vp Ad₁. Ad₂. I. vp an high Lb. aboue] abou Ar. the] in the Ad₂. I. 835. this] thus Ra. to this Ad₁. L₂. to his Ad₂. I. 837. As] And as C. P. E₂. L₂. Marcian] Matrician E₂. ynamed] named T₁. de] be Ap. by P. *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Capelle] Copelle E₂. 839. this] his C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. 845. bothe Bo. T₁. Ad₁. M. Ra. C. both Ar. G. T₂.

At the weddyng^t / in Thebës were absent ;

That causèd after / grete aduersitè.

For fynal eende / of that solempnyte

was sorowe / and woo / *and* destruccioun,

Vtter ruyne / of this Royal touñ.

Ther may no man helpe it nor socoure,

For a tyme / in Ioyè / thogh they floure.

But at this weddyng^t /, platly forto telle,

was Cerberus / Chief porter of helle,

And herebus / Fader to hatrede,

was ther present with his hool kynrede,

His wiff also / with her browës blake,

And her doghtren / sorow forto make,

hydous-chered / and vggely forto see,

Megera / and Thesiphonee,

Allecto ek / with labour *and* envie,

Drede and fraude / and fals trecherie,

Tresoun · pouerte / Indigence, and nede,

And cruel deth / in his Rentè Wede,

Wrechednesse / compleynt* / *and* eke Rage,

Fer ful palè / derknesse / crokèd age,

Cruel mars / as eny Tygre wood,

Brennyng^t Ire / of vnkyndè blood,

Fraternal hatè / depè sett^t the rote,

Saue only deth / that ther nas no bote,

[leaf 15]

848 Edippus's wedding brought about the ruin of Thebes.

852

¶ The Infortunat folk þat weren at þe weddinge.

¶ Cerberus

¶ Herebus

856

¶ Nyght & her thre doghtren

860

¶ Drede

¶ Fraude

¶ Trecherie

¶ Tresoun

¶ Pouerte

¶ Indigence

¶ Nede

¶ Deth

¶ Cruel Mars

864

868

¶ Alle pise folk weren at the wedding of

846. At the Ar. G. L₁. S. L₂. Ap. Atte Ad₁. Ra. E₁. At (the om.) Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. Ba. C. P. E₂. Att Ad₂. I. T₂. Ad Lb. 848. solennite Ad₁. 849—
852 omitted in L₂. 851. it] om. G. P. nor] ne T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. P. E₂. 853. at this] atte E₁. at his E₂. platly] plainly S. C. E₂.
for to] to Ad₁. Ad₂. I. C. 854. was] were Ra. S. Cerberus] Cerebus Ad₁.
Ad₂. I. Chief porter] a feend Ad₂. I. 855. to] vnto Ad₁. Ra. Ba. S. of C.;
Ad₂. and I. omit And herebus, and have l. 855 fadir and foundour unto hattred.
856. hool Du. hole Bo. Ad₁. In the rubric beside l. 858 Nyght] Nygh Ar.
856. Megera] Mergera Ba. and] and eke M. Di. Ra. Ba. T₂. and also C.
Thesiphonee] Tysiphone M. Di. Thesiphonie Ba (: see). Thesyphane P.
Thesyffene Ap. 863. pouerte Ar. G. Bo. L₁. E₁. P. pouert T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di.
Ad₁. Ra. S. C. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ap. Iindigence Ar. 864. rent Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁.
865. compleynt] compleyn Ar. G. eke Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. eek Ra. 866. Fer ful
pale Ar. G. Ba. fereful pale Bo. and all the rest except L₁ and Lb., that have
ferdfull pale. derknesse] Dronkenesse E₂. croked] and croked Bo. Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
Ra. Ba. P. L₂. 868. vnkynde Bo. M. vnkynd Ad₁. 869. deep Bo. depè M.
Ad₁. 870. only] onelich Du. that] om. G. Ra. Ba. P. L₂. nas] was T₁. L₁.
Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. C. P. L₂. Ap. no] non oper L₂.

Edyppus and Iocasta	Assuryd othës / at ^t the fyn vntrewe :	
	AH thise folk / werën / at ^t this weddyng ^t newe,	872
	To make the towne / desolat ^t and bare,	
	As the story / after shal declare.	
Edyppus reigned long in Thebes,	¶ But ^t ay in Thebës / with his wallës stronge	
	Edyppus regneth / many day and longe.	876
	And as myn autour writ ^t / in wordys pleyñ,	
had 2 sons	By Iocasta he had sonës tweyñ,	
	Ethyocles and also Polymyte	
	And, in bokes / as sondry clerkës write,	880
and 2 daughters by Iocasta,	Doghtres two/ ful goodly on to se,	
	Of which* the ton hight ^t Antygonë,	
	And that ^t other / callëd was ymeyne,	
	Of her beautë / Inly souereyñ.	884
	Edyppus ay devoyde / of werre and strif,	
and led at first a merry life.	with Iocasta ladde a mery lyf	
	Tyl fortune / of her iniquytë	
	Hadde envie / of his prosperitë.	888
But when Edyppus was most famous,	For whan he shon / most ^t riche in his renoun,	
	From her wheel / she plongëd hym a-doun	
Fortune cast him into woe.	Out ^t of his Ioye / into sodeyn wo,	
	As she is wonte / frowardly to do,	892
	And namely hem / that setten her affiaunce	
	Of erthly trust ^t / in her variaunce.	
One night	¶ For whan this kyng ^t / passing ^t of gret myght ^t ,	
	Sat ^t with the quene / vpon a certeyn nyght ^t ,	896
	Casuelly whan his folk echoñ	
	Out of his* Chambre sodeynly wer goñ,	

872. were Bo. Ad₁. this] be Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 873. the] om. G. 878. sonne Bo. sones M. Ad₁. 879. also] om. Bo. Polymyte] Polymyte Ad₂. P. 881. ful] om. G. 882. which Di. C. T₂. E₂. the which Ar. G. Bo. and the rest the] on Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ra (won). Ba. E₁. S. that one Ad₁. C. T₂. E₂. 883. called was] was called G. 885. ay] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. devoyde] devoidid L₂. of] of al Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 886—951 lost in C. 888. his] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 890. From] Fro Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. E₁. S. T she] he M. plonged] plukkyth L₁. 891. his] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. into] into a D and to P. 893. setten Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Ad₁. T₂. set Ra. L₂. 894. O. On Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. erthly] hertly T₂. P. E₂. L₂. A. 895. this] the E₂. passing of gret myght Ar. Bo. and all the rest. 898. hi om. Ar. G. Ad₂. I. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ap.

- Or he was war / Iocasta gan byholde
The Carectys of his woundës olde, 900 Jocasta sees the marks of old wounds on his feet, [leaf 15, back]
Vpon his fete / enprented wonder depe ;
Turnyng her facë / brast out forto wepe
So secrely / he myght it not espie.
And she anon / fille into a fantasie, 904
Ay on thys thyng / musyng mor *and* more,
And in her bed / gan to sighe sore. and sighs deeply.
And whan the kyng / conceyueth her distresse,
He gan enquire / of her hevynesse 908 He asks why she does so.
Fully the cause / and occasioun ;
For he wil wite / in conclusioun,
What her eileþ / and why she ferde so.
“ My lorde,” quod she / “ withoute wordës mo, 912 She says she
Parcel cause / of this sodeyn rage
Is for that I in my tender age
had a lorde / I-named Layus, bore a son to King Layus,
kyng of this toun / a man rizt vertuvs, 916
Be whom I hadde / a sonë / wonder-fair',
likly tabene / his successour *and* hair' :
But by causë / his dyvynours tolde who was told that the boy
At his birthe / sothly that he sholde, 920
þif he haue lyf / be fatal destanyë,
Sleen his fader / it may non oþer be ; should slay his father.
For which the king / his fatë to eschewe,
Bad me in hast / as hym thoghte dewe, 924 Layus bade Jocasta kill her babe.
To sle the childe / and haue therof no routh :
And I anon bad with-outë slouth But the men she

902. brast] barst T₁. breste E₂. and brast L₁. forto] to Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. 905. on] in Lb. thyng] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. mor and] om. Lb. 907. the kyng] om. Du. 908. gan enquire] her enquerid L₂. enquire Ar. Bo. *and all the other MSS.* (enquire Ra. enquer S.). 910. witte Bo. wete G. Lb. Di. S. P. Ap. wite Ar. M. Ad₁. *and the rest.* 910 in Ra. reads: Whi she sorwid and maad lamentacioun. 911. ferde] ferd G. Bo. Ad₁. fere T₁. 912. with-oute Bo. M. with-out Ad₁. 914. that] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. 915. I-named] named T₁. 917. sone M. Ad₁. son Bo. 918. likly] like S. tabene Ar. G. to ben L₂. P. E₂. to haue Ra. to haue ben Bo. *and all the rest.* 919. divynours Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra. 920. birthe M. Ad₁. birth Bo. 921. destanye Ar. Bo. Du. destenye E₁. destane S. destine Ad₁. 922. may Ar. G. L₂. Ap. might Bo. *and all the rest.* shulde P. 924. pouht Bo. thought M. thoughte Ad₁. 926. Ar. *has a pause-bar after* bad. with-outen Bo. Ad₁. Ra. withoute M.

	* Certeyn men / vp payne of Iugēmente,	
told to do it,	To* executē / the comaundēmente	928
	Of the king ^t / as I gaf hem in charge.	
	And forth they goñ / to a forest ^t large,	
	Adiacent ^t / vnto this contrē,	
[leaf 16] bored the child's feet, and hung him on a tree.	Percen his fete / and honge hym on a tre,	932
	Nat ^t parfourmyng ^t / thexecucioun.	
	On hym they haddē / such compassioun.	
	lefte hym ther / and hom resort ^t ageyñ,	
	Beyng ^t in doute / and in noñ certeyñ,	936
	At theyre repeire / as they tolden alle,	
	Of this childe / what ^t afterward ^t is falle ;	
There, hunters found him.	Saue they saidē / huntys han hym founde,	
	Which lad hym forth / and his feet ^t vnbounde ;	940
	But ^t to what ^t coost ^t / they couldē not ^t declare.	
	Which parcel is of myn evel fare,	
	Grounde and cause / of myn hevy chere,	
	Considred ek the woundēs that ^t appere	944
	Vpon ȝoure fete /, and woot ^t not ^t what ^t they mene.	
	And on thyng / ay / is at myn herte grene,	
Of late, Layus was slain	My lord, allas ^t but ^t of newē date :	
	kyng Layus / slayēn* was but ^t late	948

927. Certeyn] To certeyn *all the MSS.* (II^o for To in L₂). men] *om.* T₂. vp. vpon Ba. E₁. S. T₂. L₂. (in Ra. vp altered to vpon by the later hand). on L₁. Lb. 928. To execute] Execute Ar. G. Texecute Bo. T₁. To execute[n] *all the other MSS.* the] the kynges Ba. 929. Of the king] In all thing Ba. I] he Ad₁. Ad₂. I. hem] *om.* Ad₂. I. in] *om.* Di. 931. vnto] to Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. this] the G. 932. Percen] Perced L₁. M. Di. Ra. Ba. T₂. Persyng P. E₂. L₂. Ap. Percen they E₁. honge Ar. Bo. Lb. hange T₁. hangen Ad₂. I. heng M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. S. T₂. E₂. hyng L₁. P. L₂. Ap. hangynge E₁. hym] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. on] vpon Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 933. parfourmyng Bo. parformyng M. Ad₁. the execucion Bo. M. Ad₁. 934. had Bo. M. Ad₁. 935. lefte hym ther] Left ther the child L₂. hom resort] home resorted Bo. L₁. Ra. Ba. resorted home T₂. E₂. hom thei resorte Ad₂. I. restored home P. 937. theyre Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. S. E₂. L₂. Ap. (M. At heir). ther Ad₂. hir Di. Ra. T₂. here Ad₁. E₁. his Ba. repeire] report Ad₂. tolden Bo. M. tolde Lb. Ad₁. Ra. 938. afterward is falle] afterward is byfall Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. after was befall E₂. after shulde falle P. 939. Sauf Bo. Saf M. Ad₁. saide Bo. M. seide Ad₁. 940. lad] had Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. P. hau Lb. 941. to] *om.* G. coude Bo. M. Ad₁. 946. on thyng] a nodir Ra. Ba. ay is] is ay Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. at] in G. Ad₂. I. P. hert Bo. M. Ad₁. grene] greve L₁ (: mene). 947. newe Bo. Ad₁. nev M. 948. layus Ar. slayen] slayn(e) Ar. and *all the other MSS.* (see Notes).

At a Castel / nygh by this contrè,
vpon þoure comyng / into this Citè.

when Edippus
came into the
land.

Al this yweied / and rekned iñto oñ,

Maketh myn hertè / hevy as a stoñ,

952

So that I can counsel / non / nor Rede."

And with that word the kyng lift vp his hede,

And abrayd / with sharpè sighës smerte,

Edippus sighs.

And al this thing be ordre / gan aduerte,

956

Seriously / be good avisement;

And by signës / cleer and evident

Conceyueth wel / and sorè gan repente,

[t was hym-silf / that Iocasta mente.

960

And whan the Quene / in manere segh hym pleyñ,

Jocasta asks
Edippus why

By her goddes / she gan hym to constreyne

To shewen out the cause of his affray,

[leaf 16, back]

And it expowne / and makè no delay,

964

Crop and root / shortly, why that he

Entred first / into that contrè,

he came to
Thebes, and
whence.

Fro when he kam / and fro what regioun.

But he hir put / in dilusioun,

968

As he haddè* done it for the nonys.

Til at the* laste / he brak out atonys

Vnto the queene / and gan a processe make

First how he was / in the forest take,

972

wounded the feet / and so forþ euery thyng,

Of his Chershyng / with Polyboun the kyng,

He says he was
taken, with his
pierst feet,

And hool the causè / why he hym forsoke,

to King Po-
lyben :

952. hert Bo. M. Ad₁. 953. nor] ne Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. E₁. S.
P. E₂. Ap. oþer L₂. 954. that] om. G. left Bo. 955. sharp Bo. M. sharpe
Ad₁. 957. Ceriously] Curiously Du. P. E₂. L₂. good] the P. 959. Conce-
yueth] Conceuyd Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 961. In Ar. after the is kr, underdotted.
pleyn] feyne Ad₂. I. 963. shewen Bo. Ad₁. shewe M. 964. it expowne]
xpowne it Bo. 965. Ccrop Ar. 967. Fro when] Fro whens Lb. M. Di. Ad₂.
S. From whence P. E₂. kam] come M. Di. Ba. C. P. 968. he] om. G.
69. hadde G. Lb. Di. Ad₁. had Ar. Bo. T₁. M. Ra. 970. at the laste] at last
Ar. T₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. C. P. E₂. atonys] all attonys Ra. Ba (all at oons : for the
oons). S. 971. a] to G. 974. his] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Chershyng Ar. G.
herisshyng Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Di. I. Ra. Ba. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. cherising Ad₁. Ad₂.
hersyng M. S. C. chercyng Lb. serchyng E₁. with] þat Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. S.
f M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. and of Ra. Ba. how E₁. om. G. Polibon Bo. polliboun
la. Pollibon Ad₁.

then went to-
wards Thebes
by Apollo's
bidding,

And in what wisē / he the weyē toke

976

Toward Thebēs / as Appollo bad,

And of fortunē / how that he was lad

Wher that Spynx / kepte the mounteyn,

and slew King
Layus.

And how that he slough also in certeyn

980

kyng Layus at the castel gate,

Towardēs nyght whan it was ful* late,

And how to Thebēs that he gan hym spede

To fynden oute / the stok of his kynrede :

984

which vnto hym gan to wexē* couth ;

For by processe / of his grenē ȝouth

He now finds
that Jocasta
is his mother
as well as his
wife.

he fonde out wel, be reknyng of his lif,

That she was both / his moder and his wif.

988

So that al nyght and sving on þe morow

Both sorrow.

A-twene hem* two / gan a newē sorowe :

Which vnto me were tedious to telle ;

For ther-vpon / ȝif I shulde dwelle,

992

A long space it woldē occupie.

[leaf 17]

¶ Tragedia
Seneca de Edippo
Rege thebarum.

But ȝe may reden in a Tragedye

Of Moral Senyk fully his endyngē,

Seneca's Tragedy
of Edippus
tells how he
lost his wits,

His dool, his meschief / and his compleynyng,

99

How with sorow / and vnweldy age

This Edippus / fille into dotage,

lost his wit / and his worldly delit,

And how his sonēs* / had hym in despit,

100

And of disdeyn / tok of hym no kepe.

And bookēs seyn / his eyen out he wepe.

976. waye Bo. way M. Ad₁. to ke Ar. 978. that] *om.* Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. L
M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. P. 979. kept Bo. Ad₁. kepte M. 980. And] A
Ar. how] *om.* Du. 981. layus Ar. 982. towardes Bo. towardis D
towardus Ad₁. toward M. ful] fal Ar. 983. that] þan Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M
Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. P. *om.* G. 984. fynden Bo. Ad₁. finde M. 98
Which] For whiche Lb. (*from* 986). vnto] to C. to *om.* in all MSS. except A
G. L₂. Ap. wexe] wex Ar. G. Du. L₁. L₂. Ap. wixe Lb. waxe M. Ra. C. T
wax Ba. couth] vn couth L₁. 986. grene] gret Ad₁. I. 988. in Ar. a pau
lar also between was and both. 989. that al] al that G. 990. hem Bo. Ac
ham Ar. them Ra. newe Bo. new M. Ad₁. 992. ȝif I shulde] yff that I sh
Ad₂. I. shulde Bo. sholde Ad₁. shold M. 993. wolde Bo. wold M. woo
Ad₁. 994. reden Bo. M. Ad₁. 997. and] and wel Ad₂. I. 999. and his] ar
Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1000. how] *om.* Bo. sonnes Ar. Bo. Du. L₁. Ba. P. E₂. L₂. A
sones T₁. M. Ad₁. Ra. C. T₂. soones Lb. in] *om.* G. 1002. And] And as Du.

- And as myn auctour liketh to devise,
 s his sones rebuke hym and dispise, 1004
 pon a day / in a certeyn place
 ut of his hede / his eyen he gan race, and tore his eyes
 out;
 nd Cast at hem /, he can noñ other bote,
 nd of malice / they trad hem vnder fote, 1008
 ully devoidē / both of loue and drede.
 And whan Edippus / for meschief was thus dede,
 with-Inne a pytte / made in the erthē* lowe,
 of crueltē / his sonēs / han hym throwe, 1012
 Vers* than serpent / or eny tigre woodē.
 Of Cursid stok / cometh vnkynde bloodē,
 As in story / 3e may rede her to-forñ ;
 Al be the Roosē* / grow / out of a thorn. 1016
 Thus of Edippus /, whan he was blyndē and oldē,
 The wrecched ende / I haue* 3ou pleynly toldē.
 For which shortly / to man and child I rede
 To be wel war / and to taken hede 1020
 ¶ Of kyndely ri3t / and of conscience
 To do honour* // and duē* reuerence
 To fader and* moder / of what estat thei be,
 Or certeyn / ellis / they shul neuere the. 1024
 ¶ Nota.
 ¶ How euery
 man oght of
 dieute to do
 reuerence to
 Fader and
 modere.
 ¶ Or ellis ther
 wil folowe
 vengeance
 [leaf 17, back]
 1004. As] and as M. (from 1003). That Di. his] om. M. sonnes Bo. soones
 Lb. hym] om. Ap. 1007. can] cowde Ad₂. I. 1009. deuide Bo. Lb. M.
 leuoyd Ad₁. Ra. 1010. was thus] thus was M. Di. Ra. Ba. P. thus] om. Ad₁.
 Ad₂. I. 1011. made] om. Lb. the] om. Di. erthe T₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. erth Ar.
 Bo. Du. Within þe erthe a pitte made full lowe L₁. 1013. Wers Ad₁. Ra. L₂.
 Ap. Wors L₁. Lb. M. Di. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. Wars Du. Ba. Werre Ar. G. E₁.
 Were Bo. Wer T₁. Wer wors Ad₂. I. than] than a Lb. P. than any Ba. or
 eny] or Ba. S. 1014. vnkynde Bo. M. Ad₁. 1015. her] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
 1016. rose M. Ad₁. Roos Ar. Bo. Roose G. a] the G. 1017—1142 gap in C.
 1017. of] om. L₁. blynd and] om. Di. S. whan . . . old] þat was so bolde Ad₁.
 Ad₂. I. 1018. haue Bo. T₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. ha Ar. 3ou] om. Bo. Di. pleynly]
 om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ap. 1020. wel] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. taken Bo. M. Ad₁. In Ra.
 and Ba. ll. 1017—1020 are very much altered, thus:
 Thus I haue rehersed al the caas 1017
 Off Edippus whens that he was 1018
 And the wrechid end wherfore that I rede 1019
 Every (eny Ba.) man and child be war and take hede Ra. 1020
 1021. and of] and Ad₂. I. 1022. honour] nur (miswritten) Ar. due M. Ad₁.
 dewe Bo. diwe Lb. dieu Ar. dew G. om. Ra. Ba. 1023. and] om. Ar. G.
 Ap. of] om. Ra. Ba. estat] of state G. 1024. certeyn] certainly Lb. E₁. G.
 ellis] om. Ba. certeyn ellis] elles certein Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. shul Ar. Bo. Du.
 Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. shulen T₁. shall L₁. Ad₂. S. P. L₂. shuld G. sholde E₁.
 the] I-the Lb. Ad₁. Ba. S.

- For who that^t is not^t to hem debonayr
 In spech, in port / for to trete hem fair,
 Hem to obeye / in honestè and drede,
 And to cheriss^h* / of what they han nede, 1028
 I dar afferme / exceptyng^t noⁿ astat,
 That he shall first^t be infortunat^t
 In alle his werk / both on see *and* lond^t,
 And of what^t thyng^t that^t he take on hond^t 1031
 Fortunè froward / to hym *and* contrayre*,
 Waast* of his good /, pleyⁿly and appaire,
 shall end badly. Fyndè plentè / of kontek / werre, *and* striff,
 Vnhappy ende / and shortnesse of liff, 1034
 And gracèles / of what^t he hath to* do,
 Hatrede of god / and of man also.
 Let no man be reckles; but be you warn^d
 by Edippus's sons. ¶ Therfor no man / be herof rekkèles,*
 But make 3oure myrou^r of Ethiocles 1041
 And his brother / callèd Polymyte,
 Which in such thyng^t / gretly* were to wite,
 As 3e shal here / of hem how it fil.
 And whan we ben / descendid doune this hil 1044
 And ypassèd / her / the lowè vale,
 I shal begynne the remnant^t of my tale.

¶ Explicit Prima pars istius Codicilli.

¶ Incipit Secunda Pars Eiusdem.

Secunda pars.

1028. And] And nem P. E₂. cherisshe T₁. Lb. M. cherish Bo. Du. L₁. Ad.
 T₂. cherssh Ar. G. Ad₁. S. of] hem of L₁. nede] drede L₁. (from 1027)
 1031. werk] werkus Lb. on] on þe G. in Lb. 1032. of] after M. Di. thyng
 om. P. that] om. G. Ad₂. I. P. he] om. G. take] taketh G. E₁. P. on] in S
 1033. Fortune froward] For the tyme forward E₂. to hym and] and to hym E₁
 contrayre Lb. E₁. P. E₂. L₂. contraye Ar. Bo. *and the rest, except S., that ha*
 congye. 1034. Waast] Wayst Ar. G. good] godis L₁. E₂. and] om. Bo
 pleyⁿly and appaire] plenty and appaye S. 1035. fynde Bo. M. Ad₁. 1037
 to do] at do Ar. G. a do T₂. a doo Ap. addo P. he hath to do] that he ha
 do L₂. 1038. Hadrede Ar. Hated Bo. Hatred M. Ad₁. hated Di. 1039
 Therfor] Ther of G. rekles Ar. G. Bo. L₁. Lb. T₂. reklesse Ra. rekeles T₁. Du
 L₂. reccheles M. Di. 1042. thyng] thinges E₂. caas Lb. gretly] gretlich Ar
 were] was Lb. gretly were] wer gretly Ra. Ba. P. 1043. 3e] he G. here Ar
 Bo. T₁. Du. M. Ad₁. Ra. hire Lb. fil Bo. Ad₁. felle Lb. fel M. fell (: helle
 Ra. 1044. And] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ba. T₂. P. descendid] con
 descended G. this] þe Bo. M. Di. Ad₂. I. G. of this S. 1045. ypassèd] epassio
 L₂. passed T₁. Ad₂. I. the] this M. P. lowe Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra.

Secunda Pars.

[leaf 18]

PAssed the throp / of Bowtoun on þe ble,
 By my chilyndre / I gan anoñ to se, 1048
 Thorgh þe sonnē / þat ful cler gan shyne,
 Of þe klok that it drogh to nyne;
 And saugh also þe siluer dropës shene
 Of þe dewe / lich peerlys* / on þe grene, 1052
 Vapoured vp in-to the eire* alofte,
 Than zephyrus / with his blowing softe
 wedere madë lusty / smoth / and feir,
 and right attempre / was the hoolsom eir*; 1056
 the samë hour / aH the hoolë* Route
 of the pylgrymes / rydyng round aboute,
 my talë / whan I gan procede,
 ehercyng forth / as it was in dede, 1060
 Than Edippus / buryed was and graue,
 ow his sones / the kyngdam for to haue,
 nong hem-silf / be ful mortal hate
 his sons strove for the Crown.

1047. throp] thorpe L₁. E₁. Boughton Bo. Boughten P. Broughton E₂.
 1048. Boughton Ba. on þe] of þe T₁. vnder þe L₁. Ad₂. I. vppon P.
 1049. chilyndre] chelandir Ad₂. I. childern E₁. childryn L₂. chalandre Ra. kalendar
 E₂. kalender E₂. anon] om. Ra. Ba. 1050. klok Ar. Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. Ra. E₁. T₂.
 L₂. clook L₂. klokke G. clokke Du. Di. E₂. that] om. L₂. to] toward Ra.
 1051. And] An Ar. also] all Ba. þe] of T₂. P. L₂. as E₂. shene] shyne L₁. and
 (:grene; see 1049). shyne Ra (:greene). 1052. Of] And Lb. lich] like
 Lb. perelys Ar. perleys G. pereles P. Ap. peerles Bo. perles Ad₁.
 1053. eier Bo. ayr Ad₁. heire Ar. 1055. lusty smoth] smothe lusti Ad₁. Ad₂.
 1056. om. I. 1056. attempre] attemperyd Du. attempred E₁. hoolsom] om.
 1057. aire Bo. air Ad₁. heir Ar. 1057. hoole Bo. hool Ar. Ad₁. 1061—
 1062 lost in T₁. 1063. be ful Ar. G. L₁. P. by full T₂. E₂. Ap. by fell L₂. by
 1063. be ful of Bo. Du. Lb (ben). M (ben). Di (bene). Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S.

	For the crownë / gonnë to debate	1064
	which of hem / Iustly / shal succede,	
	And the Sceptre / of the tounne possede ;	
	Advertyng nought / neither to right ne wronge,	
Each lookt to his own interest only.	But eche of hem / to make her partie stronge,	106
	And his querele / proudly to sustene :	
	From whoos hertës / was devoyded* clene	
	Of brotherhode / the faithful alliaunce.	
	Fals Couetise / so made hem at distaunce,	107
	Fully worchyng into destruccioun	
	And Ruyne / of this noble touñ.	
	So hootë brente the hatred and envie	
Neither of Edippus's sons would give way to the other, [leaf 18, back]	Of bothe two / thorgh pompous Surquedye,	107
	That nowther woldë* / pleylnly in a poynt	
	Other forbern* /, they stod in such disioynte	
	as thow* they hadde / of berthë* be foreyns.	
so the citizens of Thebes settled that the	Tyl of the tounne / the noble Citezeyns,	108
	knyghtës, Barounes / with many worpi lord,	
	Shope a way / to mak hem of accord,	
	And to set hem / in quyete / and in pees.	
elder, Eteocles,	But for his part / this Ethiocles	10
	Aleggë gan that he was first yborn ;	

1064. For] And for Bo. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. gonne Ar. I. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. T₂. P. E₂. gan L₁. Ad₂. S. Ap. they gon to] for to S. P. E₂. om. Bo. Ba. debate] bate Ra. 1067. Advertyng] Hauty or Hantying Ra. Ba. nought Bo. not M. Di. nat Ra. Ba. neither to r. ne G. Bo. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. S. P. E₂. neither to r. nor Ra. Ad₂. I. neipre to r. no I. neither to r. ne to Ba. nother to r. ne E₁. nothyr to r. nor Ap. nofer r. ne to r. neither to M. Di. to r. nor to T₂. 1069. querele Ar. G. quarel Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra. quarell Du. T₂. 1070. devoyded] devoyden Ar. 1073. worchy Ar. Bo. Lb. M. Ad₁. werchyng E₂. werkyng L₁. Ra. T₂. 1075. hoot 1076. bothe Bo. 1077. nowther T₂. neither Bo. Lb. Ad₁. Ra. wolde Lb. wold Ar. Ad₁. Ra. a] o M. Di. Ra. T₂. noo Ba. L₂. 1078. forbe forborn (*miswritten*) Ar. for ber G. 1079. As though Du. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Di. how as Ar. G. Bo. Lb. M. E₁. S. Though as L₁. lik as T₂. P. E₂. L₂. berthe Du. birthe M. Ra. berth Ar. Ad₁. birth Bo. T₂. of berthe be] b birthe M. Di. 1080. Citezeyns Ar. Bo. Lb. Citefeyns Ad₁. S. Citezens Cetezens L₁. 1081. many Bo. M. many a Ad₁. 1082. Shope Ar. G. L₁. Lb. Ra. Ba. T₂. P. E₂. L₁. shop Ad₁. Ad₂. Shupe Du. Shopen M. Shape Ap. mak hem of accord] make hem at accord Di. Ad₂. I. M (at o cor) make hem a cord Bo. P (accorde). 1085. Alegge gan] Gan alegge L₁. Ale can S. L₂. first] om. Du. yborn Ar. G. Ad₂. I. L₂. Ap. born Bo. Ad₁. and the rest.

For which he ought of resoun go to-forn

in the Citè / to be crown'd kyng,

With be lawe / ther was no lettyng.

1088 should be
crown'd.
¶ The contro-
uercy of the
breperen.

For vnto hym / longeth / the heritage

Be discent / and be title of age.

But polymyte / of ful hegh disdeyn,

Al opynly gan replie ageyn

1092 But the younger,
Polyneices,

And for his part / seide, in special,

Reson was non / that he shuld haue alle

Regaly and domynacioun,

And the lordship hooly of the toun,

1096

And he right nought / out of the Cytè

But* lyve in exile / and in pouertè,

Ful concludyng, with-out feer and dred,

Rather than suffre that / he wil be ded.

1100 said he'd sooner
die than let his
brother have all

And thus, allas / thorgh her envious strif,

At the ende / euerich loste his lif,

At gret mischief / as ȝe shal after here.

In the end, each
kild the other.

But thylke tyme the lordës al yfere

1104

Ful bysily did her dyligence,

By gret avis / and ful high prudence,

To setten hem in quyetie and in Reste ;

Conseylyng hem pleyndly for the beste,

1108

To leue her strif / of wisdom and resoun,

[leaf 19]

And condescende / to some conclusioun

1086. For which] Wherefore M. Di. T₂. of resoun] of reȝt Bo. he ought of
resoun] of reason he oughte E₁. Ad₂. I. M. Di. Ad₁ (om. he). go] to go G. L₁. S.
Ap. to-forn] be-forn L₁. forn S. L₂. Off which a resoun he aughte go afor P.
1087. crown'd] crownyng Bo. 1090. be title] be om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1092. gan]
gan to M. Di. T₂. P. L₂. 1094. that om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. he] om. Bo. one Du.
huld Ar. Ad₁. Ra. shulde L₁. Lb. shol Bo. shul Du. 1095. Regaly] Bothe
regalye T₂. P. E₂. Te Regayle L₁. Regalite Ad₂. and] and eke M. Di. and the
T₂. 1098. But] om. Ar. G. E₁. L₂. Ap. lyve] life Ba. second in] om. Ra.
1099. Ful] fully L₁. om. P. E₂. with-out Bo. and] or P. drede Ar (with final
underdotted). 1100. in Ar. a pause-bar also between suffre and that. 1102.
At the ende Ar. G. Du. Atte the ende Ra. atte ende Bo. Ad₁. T₂. at thende
Lb. att end Ba. at ende M. Di. euerich] eche Bo. eueryche of hem L₁. lost
Bo. loost Lb. 1104. thilke Bo. Ad₁. thilk M. in feere Bo. in fere G.
y-fere M. I-fere Ad₁. 1105. besily Bo. T₂. bisili Ad₁. did Ar. Bo. didn
M. Di. Ad₂. S. dede T₂. deden Ad₁. I. 1106. and] of E₁. high] om. Bo.
Du. L₁. 1107. setten Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra. sett L₁. Lb. T₂. hem] om. Bo.
rest Bo (: best).

	Which to bothē* / myghte most ^t availle ;	
The Theban lords get them to agree that each brother	That ^t fynaly / thorgh her gouernaile,	1112
	The lordēs allē / beyng ^t tho present ^t ,	
	They han hem broght ^t / to be of on assent ^t ,	
	Of on hert ^t / as brother vnto brother,	
shall reign for a year ;	Euerich of hem / to regnen* after other,	1116
	3eer be 3eer / as it ^t cam aboute,	
and while one reigns,	So that the toñ / shal absent ^t hym oute	
the other shall go away and do warlike deeds.	Fully that ^t 3eer, and hym-siluen* guye	
	Be his manhode / and his chyualrye,	1120
¶ The conuencion of the breþeren.	haunte hym-self / in Dedys marcyal ;	
	whil his brother / in his See Royal	
	Holdeth his sceptre / the Citē to gouerne ;	
	And whan the 3eer / his cours hap ^t ronñē 3erne	1124
	And is come out ^t /, he shal haue* repair	
	To Regne in Thebēs / lik as lord ^t and hair,	
	There to receyue / fully his dignytē ;	
	whil the tother voideth the Citē,	1128
	Paciently / taking ^t his auenture	
	Til* he ageyn / his honure may recure.	
They shall change yearly.	Thus entrechaunge euery 3ere they shal :	
	The ton ascendeth* / that ^t other hap ^t a fal.	1132
	They most ^t obeye of hert ^t / and take it wel,	
	liçh as the tourn / resortē of the whel.	
	For this was hool / the composicioun	
Both Eteocles	A-twene the bretheren / and conuencion,	1136
<p>1111. bothe Bo. M. Ad₁. both Ar. Du. Lb. Ra. T₂. myght Bo. M. Ad₁. R. om. G. myghte most] most myght M. Di. T₂. 1112. thorg Ar. 1113. al Bo. M. Ad₁. tho] ther I. 1116. regne Ar. Bo. Lb. M. Ra. rengne Ad 1117. 3eer] There Lb. cam] come M. T₂. cometh Di. Ra. Ba. P. E₂. 1119. Full Full Lb. hym-siluen cp. 710. hym-silf Ar. Bo. Ad₁. hymsilfe Ra. E₁. guye A Ra. T₂. gye Bo. Ad₁. 1120. and his] and (his om.) Bo. 1121. Dedye A marcyal] mercial Bo. Du. 1122. while Bo. M. Ad₁. 1124. 3eer his] yer T₂. his cours hap^t ronñē] hath ronñe his cours M. Di. 3erne] om. P (ronñe gouerne). 1125. is] om. Lb. is come out] is ended Ad₁. Ad₂. I. ha Ar. ha Bo. M. han Ad₁. 1128. whil Ar. while Bo. M. Ad₁. whyle that E₁. th tother Ar. T₂. Ap. pat other Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra. the other E₁. L₂. his brother I voideth] avoydith P. 1130. Til] To Ar. 1131. Thus] This Lb. entrechaun; all the MSS., except entrechaunge Lb. Di. P. 1132. the ton Ar. G. P. I Ro. Ap. pat oon Bo. Du. M. Ad₁. Ra. T₂. ascendeth] descendeth Ar. ascende] Ro. that other Ar. Bo. Du. M. Ad₁. Ra. T₂. Ap. the other G. the tothir P. I Ro. hap] hadde Di. haue P. 1136. A-twene Ar. T₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. And twei G. Bitwene Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra. and] and þe Du. Ra. L₂. Ro.</p>		

- Ful knet vp / be gret avisement,
 To-for the goddys / be oth of sacrament,
 Neuer after to grochē* ne to varye,
 But a-complisshen Shortly / and not tarye, 1140 [leaf 19, back]
 lich as thaccord / enrollēd in the toune,
 From poynt to poynt / madē mencioun.
 But alderfirst / be reson of his age,
 Etyocles / haddē thauauntage 1144
 To regne aforn / and to were a croune,
 Polymytē / hym hastyng out of toune
 Duryng that 3eer /, it may non other be,
 Whil his brother /sat in his Royal See 1148
 Ful richely vpon fortunēs wheel;
 And rode hym forth / armēd brizt in stele,
 This Polymyte / sothly as I rede,
 Hym-silf allone / on a Ryall Stede, 1152
 With-oute guyde / al the longē day,
 Beyng aferd / to kepe the heghē* way,
 In his herte / hauyng suspicioun
 To his brother / of malice and tresoun, 1156
 est he pursued / thorgh fals vnkyndē* blood
 To haue hym ded / for couētise of good,
 That he alloñ / myght haue* possessioun
1137. be] with G. gret] full Ad₂. I. 1139. groch Ar. gruch Lb. grucche
 Bo. M. grucche Ad₁. gruche E₁. a pause-bar in Ar. before ne. 1140.
 complisshen Bo. Ra. tacomplisshen M. Ad₁. to complisshen Di. in Lb.
 written, complisshen omitted, with blank space left for it. Shortly] om. Ad₁. Ad₂.
 1141. as] om. P. Ro. as thaccord] to accorde Ad₂. I. enrollēd] envolvid
 Ad₂. 1142. From Ar. Du. Ad₁. Ra. Fro Bo. Lb. M. made] maked M. Di.
 s made ys P. Ro. S (as added above the line). 1144. hadde thauauntage Ar.
 hadde the auauntage Di. T₂. Ro. had thauauntage Bo. M. had the auantage C.
 had pe vauntage L₁. L₂. had tho the Avauntage Ba (in Ra. the later hand has
 crawled some indistinct letters over tho). had tho thauauntage Ad₁. S. had ther
 vauntage Ad₂. I. 1145. to were] to bere Lb. Ba. to] om. E₂. a crowne] pe
 rowne L₁. Lb. M. Di. I. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. Ro. 1146. hym hastyng] haastyng
 im Bo. Du. L₁. Lb. E₁. him] om. S. 1148. second his] om. G. 1149. richely
 I. Ad₁. richly Bo. 1150. armed brizt] bright armyd Ad₁. Ad₂. I. in] as
 1151. This] Thus Ra. So M. Di. 1152. allone Du. Ad₁. alloon Bo.
 al M. roial Bo. Ad₁. 1153. long Bo. M. Ad₁. 1154. hegh Ar. hye Bo.
 I. Ad₁. hihe Ra. 1157. pursued] pursue C. E₂. be pursued L₁. porgh] of C.
 ls] his fals Bo. Du. L₁. E₁. his M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. fals and E₂.
 vkynde Bo. M. Ra. vnkynd Ar. Ad₁. (in Ra., by the later hand, vnkynde is crossed
 out and vnnaturall written above the line). 1159. haue Bo. M. Ad₁. ha Ar.

- Duryng^r his lif / fully of the touñ. 1160
 For which in hast /, havyng^r no felawe,
 Polymytë a-sidë gan hym drawe
 By a forest^r / Ioynnyng to the See,
 knowyng^r right^r nought^r the sytt of the contrè, 1164
 Ful of hillës / and of hegh mounteyns,
 Craggy Rochës / and but fewë playns,
 wonder dredful and lothsom of passage,
 And ther-with-al / ful of beestis rage ; 1168
 holdyng^r his way of hertë* no thyng^r light,
 Maat^r and wery / til* it^r drowe to nyght.
 And al the day / beholdyng^r enviroûñ,
 He neyther saugh^r castel, toure, ne toun ; 1172
 The whiche ping^r / greuëd hym ful sore.
 And sodeynly / the se began to Rore,
 wynde and tempest^r / hidously tarise.
 The Reyn doune bete / in ful grisly wise, 1176
 That^r man and beest^r / therof were adrad,
 And negh for ferë* / gan to wexë mad,
 As it semptë / by the wooful sownes
 Of Tygres / berës / boorës / and lyounes, 118
 which for refut^r / hem-silnë* forto saue,
 Euerich in hast^r / drogh vnto his Caue.
 But Polymyte / in this tempest^r huge,
 Allas the whilë* / fyndeth no refuge, 118

1161. haast Bo. hast M. haste Ad₁. 1162. drawe] to drawe M. Di. wit
 drawe C. T₂. E₂. 1164. sytt Ad₁. cyet Bo. Du. M. the] þat Ad₁. Ad₂.
 1165. hegh Ar. hye Bo. 1166. Craggy] Cracchy Ad₂. I. roches] roges I
 Di. fewe Bo. M. Ad₁. 1169. herte Ad₁. Du. hert Ar. Bo. M. 1170. t
 to Ar. G. drowe Bo. Lb. drouh Ra. drew Ad₁. T₂. 1171. al the da
 alway Bo. 1173. whiche Bo. Du. M. which T₁. Ad₁. greuëd] greueth I
 ful] om. Lb. right Ad₁. T₂. 1174. began] gan Bo. Ba. 1175. hidousl
 sodeinly Di (cp. 1174). tarise Ar. E₂. to arise Bo. T₁. Ad₁. Ra. to ryse P. gan
 ryse Lb. 1176. grisly] grevous Ad₂. I. 1177. man and beest] many
 beste E₂. were Ar. L₂. Ro. om. T₁. was all the rest. adrad] drad Ra. Ba.
 1178. fer Ar. feer Bo. fere M. Ad₁. to] om. M. Di. waxe Bo. M. w
 Ad₁. wax Du. 1179. semyd Bo. M. Ad₁. 1180. Of] As Di (cp. 117
 1181. refut] resku L₁. fortune P. hem-silne Lb. hem-selfe L₁. E₁. A
 hem-silf Ar. T₁. hem-self Bo. Du. M. Ad₁. forto] to Ra. Ba. 1182. ha
 Bo. hast Du. haste Ad₁. 1183. P underdotted, before But Ar. 1184. wh
 Bo. M. Ad₁. whil Ar.

Nor hym to schrowde / saugh nowher no socour

Til it^t was passèd / almost^t mydnyght hour

Near midnight
the clouds clear
off.

A largë spacë / that^t the sterres clere,

The clowdës voyde /, in heuene did appere ;

1188

So that^t this knyght^t / out^t of the forest^t large

¶ How Poly-
mytes cam into
the lond of
Arge.

Gan approchen / to the lond of arge,

Seyng a palays myghty of beeldyng^t,

Of which Adrastus / callèd was the kyng^t,

1192

Adrastus is king
of Argos,

A manly man / riche *and* wonder sage,

And ronnië was / somdel / into age,

Born of the Ile / which callèd is Chysoun,

And whylom sone / of the kyng^t Chaloun ;

1196

And for his witt^t /, in story as is kouth^t,

he chosen was / in his tendre ȝouth^t,

Of alle Argë / to be crownèd kyng^t,

Chief of alle Grece / by record of wryting^t,

1200

Not be dissent^t / nor successioun,

But^t al only / of fre eleccioun

[leaf 20, back]

To* holde of Arge / the sceptre in his hond,

As most^t worthy / of alle* grekës lond,

1204

louèd and drad / for wisdam *and* Iustice.

And as the story / pleynly can devise,

This worthy kyng^t haddë doghtres two,

and has 2 fair
daughters,

1185. Nor] Ne C. P. saugh] safe Ad₂. nowher] nothir Ba. om. Ad₂. no] om.
Du. Ad₁. Ba. P. nor Ad₂. I. 1186. was] om. Du. mydnygh Ar. 1188.
clowdes] cloude Du. voyde Bo. void Ad₁. 1190. approchen Bo. M. Ad₁.
the] om. G. londe] long G. 1191. belding Ad₁. byldyng Bo. 1192. the] om.
Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1193. riche] wis Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1195. which] þat Bo. T₁. Du. L₁.
Lb. M. Di. E₁. S. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. C. om. P. called] I-called P. is] om. P. was I.
Chysoun Ar. G. T₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. Chifon C. P. E₂. Clysoun Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M.
Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. Elisoun I. 1196. whylom] som tyme C. T₂. E₂. L₂.
Ro. om. P. sone] þe son Bo. of] to T₂. P. vnto Ad₂. I. the] om. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
Chaloun] Caloun Ad₂. Thalon Ra. Caloun Ba. called Cholon P. 1197. And
for his witt] And is writyn Ra. Ba. in story] om. Ad₂. I. is] it is L₁. M. Di. Ad₁.
Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. P. Ap. kouth] couthen Ad₂. I. 1200. alle] om. G. 1201.
Not] Nor Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C. nothir Ad₂. I. nor] ne Bo.
T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. E₁. P. nother L₁. successioun] by s. Ba. Ad₂. I. P.
203. To holde G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. A₂. I. Be holde Ar. E₁. S. He
elde C. T₂ (*misuritten helge*). P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. Heeld Ra (*he added after
heeld above the line*). Ba. in his hond] and the Croune P (*a different hand has
added and Towne with paler ink at the end of 1204*). 1204. As] And G.
of alle] in all (*om. the*) Ad₂. I. of alle the Ar. of the (*om. alle*) L₂. Ro.
207. had Bo. M. Ad₁.

- Passyng^t fair / and right^t good also. 1208
 It were to longe / her beauté to discryve.
 And the eldest^t / callēd was Argyve,
 ¶ Deyphyle (and) Dēyfylē ynamēd the seconde.
 ¶ Adrastus And Adrastus, lich as it^t is founde, 1212
 but no son. This worthy kyng^t / haddē sonē noñ,
 To succede / after he be goñ ;
 For which he was duryng^t al his lyff
 Trist^t in hert^t / and * passingly pensif. 1216
 But^t hool his trust^t / and his hopē stod,
 Be Aliaunce / of some worthy blood
 Adrastus hopes to marry his daughters well. Brouȝt Inne by mene / of his doghtres tweyñ,
 That^t he shal be releśēd / of his peyne, 1220
 Thorgh recomfort^t / of some hie mariage.
 ¶ The drem of kyng Adrastus of A bor and A lyoun. And sothly yet* ful high in his corage
 He troubled was be occasion
 But he dreams Of a sweuen and a vision, 1224
 Shewēd to hym / vpon a certeyn nyght.
 For as hym thoght / in his inward sight
 whyl he slept /, by cleer inspeccioun,
 that a wild Boar and a Lion shall wed them. A wyldē boor / and a fers lyoun 1228
 Possedē shal, thise bestēs in her Rage,
 His doghtres two / be bond^t of mariage
 In shorte tyme / with-In a certeyn day ;
 which broght his herte / in ful grete affray. 1230
 [leaf 21] But^t ping^t in soth / that^t destinē hath shape,

1211. ynamed] ynamed was G. 1212. lich] þe kyng L₂. is] was L₁
 1213. This worthy kyng] In all his lyf L₂. had son Bo. had sone Ad₁. son
 had M. Di. C. T₂. sone hadde G. 1214. succede Ar. Bo. and all the rest, excep
 succede and regne I₁. after] aftrē þat Du. be] is L₁. were Ro. 1216. trist
 trysty Ad₂. I. and] om. Ar. G. passingly] passyng Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. D
 Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. P. L₂. 1221. marige Ar. recomfort] comfort Ad
 Ad₂. I. joynynge P. hie] om. I. 1222. yet] right Ar. G. Lb. ful] om. Ll
 high] hevy Lb. ofte C. T₂. P. E₃. I₂. Ro. Ap. in] of Ad₂. I. his] on
 I. 1225. Shewde Bo. Du. 1228. wilde Bo. M. Ad₁. 1229. Possed
 Procede L₂. shal] om. Bo. shul M. Di. C. P. E₃. shuld T₂. thi
 L₂. þees Bo. these Lb. M. thes Ad₁. thies Du. the E₁. her] h
 Ra. 1230. His] And his L₂. doghtren Bo. be bond] by bounde L
 Ro. be bounde T₂. by way L₁. Ap. by lawe Ad₂. by lond I. hu
 L₂. of] and Bo. 1233. destanye Bo. Du. destene M. Ad₁. sha
 (miswritten) Ar.

Her in this world / ful hard is to eskafe ;
Eke merveylous / a man teschewe his faate.

And Polmyte / of whom I spak late, 1236 Polyneices

With the tempest / bete / and al be-reyned

Be grace only / the Citè hath atteyned, enters Argos city,

¶ Wher Adrastus / ful statly of degrè,

Thilkë* tymë / helde his Royal see. 1240

The troublly nyght / myrk, and ful obscure,

hath brought this knyght / only be auenture and goes to the palace

Thorgh the Citè, enclosed with a wal,

Vnto the paleys / chief and princípal, 1244

Wher as the kynge / in his chambre alofte where Adrastus

lay in his bed / and slepte wonder softe.

Eke alle his folk / hadde her chambres take, and all his folk lie asleep.

lik as Fortune / peraunter haddë shape, 1248

The silfë* tyme / be-cause it was so late ;

And Casuelly / no porter / at the gate, The porter is at the gate.

As it haddë* be right for the nonys.

And in a porchë* / bilt of squarë stonys, 1252

Ful myghtely enarched envyroun,

wher the domys / and plees of the touñ

weren execut / and lawës of the kyng,

And ther this knyght / without* mor tarying, 1256 Polyneices ties his horse up in a porch,

Wery and maat / from his stede alight,

1234. ful] *om.* Di. hard] *herd* L₂. Ro. is] it is Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. (*in* Ra. it is added by later hand) E₁. S. T₂. P. E₂. to eskafe] *teschape* E₂. to scape P. S. (*the scribe of Ar. first wrote eschewe (see 1235), but underdotted this word and added eskafe*). 1235. to eschewe Bo. M. *teschue* Ad₁. 1237. albe reyned Ar. 1240. Thilke Bo. Ad₁. Thilk Ar. M. 1241. troublly] *trouble* L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. E₁. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. troublid Ra. myrk] *merke* L₁. P. E₂. mark Lb. derke Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. *om.* L₂. ful] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₂. obscure] *osure* L₂. Ro. 1242. hath] *That* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. be] of Ro. 1246. slepte M. slept Bo. Ad₁. 1247. had Bo. M. Ad₁. her] *om.* Bo. the Ro. all her Ad₂. I. chambres] *chambre* M. Di. S. Ra. caumbre Ba. 1248. had Bo. M. Ad₁. 1249. silf Ar. Bo. Lb. M. self Ad₁. 1250. no] *nor* G. atte gate Bo. Ad₁. 1251. hadde Di. E₁. had Ar. Bo. M. hade Ad₁. (*Ar. has a pause-bar after right*). 1252. in] *om.* G. porche Bo. M. Ad₁. porch Ar. porte Du. 1253. myghtely] *myghti* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1254. wher] *There* P. and] *and* be Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. plees] *paleys* P. ; *in* C. : the plees and domes. 1255. execut] *executid* L₁. Ra. Ba. E₂. and] *and* be Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. 1256. without] *with* Ar. G. mor] *om.* Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. 1257. fro Bo. Ad₁.

- Hangynge the rene / in al the hast he myght,
 vppon his arme / surer hym to kepe,
 and sleeps there himself. And leyde hym doune / and gan anoñ to slepe, 1260
 As hym semptē / that tyme for the beste.
 And whil that he lay thus forto reste,
 Then, in rides a manly knight,
 [leaf 21, back] Of aventure / ther cam / a knyght ryding', 1264
 The worthiest in this world lyvyng,
 Curteys, lowly / and right vertuous,
 Tideus, As seith myn autour / Callēd Tidyus,
 Eurous in Armes / and manly in werkyng,
 Of his byrthe / sone vnto the kyng' 1268
 Of Calydonye / a londe of gret renoun.
 And he, allas / out of that Regioun
 who 's been banisht from Caledonia Exilēd was / for he his* brother sclowe,
 As Stace of Thebēs / writ the manere howe, 1272
 Al be that he / to hym no malys mente.
 For on a day / as they on huntynge wente
 In a forest / for herte / and for hynde,
 So as he stod vnder a grenē* lynde, 1276
 And Casuely / lete his Arow Slippe,
 he slough his broder / callēd Menalippe,
 Thorgh mortal sort / his honde was begyled :
 For which / he was / banishēd* and exiled, 1280
 As the lawē / narowe / sette his charge.

1259. surer] sure C. T₂. P. E₂. Ro. pe surer L₁. Lb. M. Di. (*in* Ra. the added by later hand). to] for to C. T₂. P. E₂. 1260. leyde] lenyd Ad₂. I. 1261. sempte Bo. M. Ad₁. 1262. while Bo. Ad₁. Ra. that] om. M. Di. E₁. he] he pa. tyme P. (*see* 1261). thus] om. P. 1264. The] One the C. P. E₂. On of the T₂ in this] in pe Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. of the C. P. E₂. 1266. I-called Ad₁. Tidyus Ar. Bo. Du. Tideus G. L₁. Ad₁. Lb. Di. Ra. C. L₂. Theudeus Ad₂. I. T₂. Tydyus E₁. Tydeus M. S. P. Ro. Tydius T₁. 1268. birth Bo. birthe M. Ad₁. the] a Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1269. Calydonye Ar. Ad₁. Ra. E₁. S. Ap. Calidone Ro. Calidoynye Lb. Callidoynye Ad₂. I. E₂. Calcidonye Bo. Du. M. Di. Ba. T₁ (*altered into* Calcidonye). Calcidoynye C. T₂. Calcidone L. L₂. Calcydoun P. (*cp.* 1405). 1271. his] is Ar. L₁. sclowe Ar. (*the copyist first wrote slough, but underdotted this and added sclowe; cp.* 1278). slow G. Bo. T. Lb. M. Ad₁. sloughe P. slew T₂. sleughe Ro. 1272. Stace Bo. Lb. R. Stas Ad₁. Stage L₂. Ro. pe Stace Di. thestage C. writ] wrote Du. 1273. the he to hym no malys] that he no malice to hym L₂. to hym that he no malyce R. L₁. to] on C. T₂. at P.; *in* M. Di. 1273 and 1274 are transposed. 1275. an for] and G. 1276. Ar. has a pause-stroke between vnder and a. grene Bo. M. Ad₁. gren Ar. 1280. banshed Ar. G. banesshid Bo. banessshed M. Ad. 1281. As] And Di.

And for this caas / he cam first to Arge,

¶ Into the porche / wher polymytë slepe,

Of auenture / ere he toke eny kepe,

1284

The samë nyght hidously beseyñ

He, batterd by
the storm,

With the tempest / of thonder / wynde / *and* reyñ ;

And filt also / anoy / and gret damage,

Thorgh the Forest holding his passage,

1288

As Polymytë haddë* do to-forñ,

In peryl oftë / likly to be lorn,

With beestës ragë / set on euery side,

Til of grace with-uten eny guyde

1292

He rode thorgh Arge / the grete myghty touñ,

rides thru
Argos,

Streght to the paleys / and the chief dongoun,

Lich as I tolde / wher polymytë lay ;

[leaf 22]

And at his comyng / made a gret affray,

1296

For he was blynde / þorgh derknesse of the nyght,

And hym to gwyë* / he ne fonde no lizt

whan he cam Inne / of priket nor of torche,

and into the
Porch where
Polyneices lies.

Til he vnwarly / entred the porche,

1300

And wold han takë ther / his herbygage.

But Polymytë / stert vp in a rage,

Polyneices
wakes,

Sodeynly awakëd / as I rede,

with the nyngë / of his proudë stede.

1304

And first of al / whan that he byhelde

A knyght y-armed / vpon his brest a shelde,

1285. hidously] hidiously Lb. 1286. omitted in Ba. With] of C. of] om.
Lb. C. T₂. wynde] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. P. E₂. and] and of E₂. 1287. filt Bo.
T₁. felt Lb. M. Ad₁. Ra. also] om. T₂. anoy] noye M. Di. P. noo Ba. and]
om. Ba. and a T₂. 1289. As] And G. hadde Di. E₁. S. had Ar. Bo. T₁. Lb.
Ad₁. toforñ Ar. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ro. beforñ Bo. and all the rest. 1290. oft Bo.
ofte M. Ad₁. 1292. withoute Bo. M. Ad₁. guyde M. gyde Bo. Ad₁. 1293.
grete Bo. gret M. grete] strong Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 1297. þorgh] þorough þe
Bo. Du. Ba. for Ro. 1298. to] for to M. Di. gweye T₁. guye M. Di. Ba.
gwy Ar. G. gye Bo. Du. Ad₁. guyed Ra. ne] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di.
Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. P. he ne fond no] fonde he no M. Di. fonde]
fonde L₁. Ba. 1299. cam] come Du. M. Di. C. nor Ar. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba.
ne Bo. and all the rest. 1300. entred] enterid L₁. Ap. entrid in Ra. Ro.
entred into Ba. C. T₂. E₂. 1300. omitted in L₂. 1301. haue Bo. M. take M.
taken Bo. Ad₁. herbygage M. Ad₁. herbergage Bo. 1302. in] on G.
1304. nyng Bo. neing M. neing Ad₁. proude Bo. M. proud Ad₁. proude]
om. G. 1305. And] But G. 1306. y-armed] armed M. Di. C. vpon in all
the MSS., except in P. E₂. that have and on. brest] hors Di.

	And gan the maner / of his aray aduerte,	
leaps on his horse, and abuses Tideus,	Of verrey Ire / vpon his hors he sterte,	1308
	And cruelly gan tydinges enquire	
	Whennys he cam / or what he dede there,	
	And bad in hast / his answer to devise.	
who answers gently,	And Tydeus, in ful humble wise,	1312
	Answerd ageyn / of verrey gentillesse,	
and says he was driven in by the tempest,	And seid in soth / that of hegh distresse,	
	Of the tempest / and the derke nyght,	
	he dryven was / lich an erraunt knyght,	1316
	Of nede only / and of* necessite	
	And high constreynt / of his adversite,	
	To takē loggyng / wher so that he myght;	
	And in that courte / therfor he alight	1320
and that he means no harm.	With-outē morē*, thenkyng non outrage	
	Nor to no wight / noyeng* ne damage.	
Polyneices declares he shan't stay there.	Than Polymyte / of malys / and hegh pride	
	Tolde hym shortly / he shuldē* not abide,	1324
	Nor loggē ther / thogh he had it sworn.	
[leaf 22, back]	"For I," quod he / "toke it vp to-forē	
	And wil it kepē during al this nyght,	
	I sieie the platly / maugrē al thy myght."	1328
Tideus says Polyneices	¶ Quod Tydeus / 'that is no curtesie	

1309. tydinges Ar. G. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. tydyng E₁. tithendes Ra. Ba. Tedi₁ Bo. Tydeus T₁. P. Ap. Tidyus Du. Tideus L₁. Lb. C. E₂. L₂. Thydeus Ro. Thedeus T₂. enquire] tenquere Ad₁. Ra. to enquire Ad₂. I. Ba. S. 1310. Whennys Ar. T₁. Ad₁. M. Whens G. Bo. Du. Lb. Ra. C. T₂. cam] come M. Di. Ra. C. T₂. or] and G. L₁. M. Di. S. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. dede Ar. Ra. dide T₁. Du. M. di. Bo. Lb. Ba. ded G. 1311. bad] bad hym Du. 1313. gentillesse] gentilness Lb. L₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. P. L₂. Ro. Ap. 1314. that] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. Ro. that he Lb. hegh] full highe T₂. Ro. his Ra. Ba. 1315. derke Bo. Ad₁. derk M. 1317. and of] and Ar. G. C. L₂. Ro. Ap. an great E₂. 1318. high constreynt] hih constreynyng Ra. high constrened Ba. him constreined C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. hiže conuersaunt Di. his] gret C. T₂. P. E. 1320. in] om. Du. courte] place Ad₂. I. therfor] wherefore Bo. Du. Lb. P. he om. Du. 1321. more Bo. M. Ad₁. mor Ar. G. thenkyng Ar. G. Bo. Du. M. Ad₁. C. pinkyng L₁. T₂. L₂. Ro. non] of any Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. name Du. non outrage] no damage Ro.; *pause-bar in Ar. after thenkyng.* 1322. Nor to] N to Lb. P. Ner to do M. Di. no] om. G. noyeng nor Bo. L₁. noyeng ne Du. M. Di. noyeng no T₁. moving ne Ar. mouyng no Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. mevyng no C. meuyng noo L₂. P. Ap. meenyng no Ra. Ba. E₁. C. T₂. E₂ (meaning). no man Lb. to do no Ro. damage] outrage Ro. 1324. shuld Ar. shold M. Ad. shulde Bo. 1326. tofor Ar. G. T₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. befor Bo. and the res 1327. kepe Bo. M. Ad₁. 1329. curtasye Bo. Du. curtesye M. curteisie Ad₁.

Me to deuoyde / but rather vileynye,
 3if 3e take hede / that seme a gentil knyght.

And I suppose / 3e han / no title of right
 To this loggyng / be way of heritage,
 More than haue I, for alle 3oure fellë rage.

1332 has no more
 right to the
 porch than he
 has,

And pardë / 3it it shal be no desese,
 Til to morowe thogh 3e do me ese,

1336 and asks leave
 to stop.

Of gentillesse / only with 3oure leve ;
 To suffre me / it shal litil greue.'

¶ But ay the morë Tydeus spak faire,

But Polyneices

Polymytë was froward / and contrayre,

1340

And shortly seide / it geyneth not to stryve ;
 That of force he shal devoidë blyve,

Or vttrely / a-twen hem bothe two

says they must
 fight.

This thyng to Trië / he most haue ado.

1344

¶ And Tydeus, seying / no bettre mene,

Ful lik a knyght / in steel y-armëd * clene,

With-out abood / faste gan hym spede

Wonder lyvely / forto take his stede,

1348

And thus thies knyghtës / pompous *and* ellat,

For litil causë / fillen at debat.

And as they ranne to-gider on * horsbak,

Euerich on other / first his sperë brak.

1352

They charge
 one another,
 break their
 spears,

And after that / ful surquedous of pride,

¶ How Tydeus
 and Polymyte
 strif for her
 loggyng.

With sharpë swerdës / they to-gyder ryde

and attack with
 swords.

Ful yrougly / thise myghty champiouns,

In her fury / lik Tygres or lyouns.

1356

1330. vilonye Bo. Du. velonye Di. vilenye Ad₁. 1334. fel Bo. M. Ad₁.
 1337. with] by Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S.
 1338. shal] shal you L₂. shal but C. T₂. P. E₂. Ro. 1339. more Bo. M. Ad₁.
 1340. contrayre] contrarie Du. 1341. not] om. I. 1342. of force] of deuorce
 L₁. shal] shulde P. 1343. a-twen] bitwene Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ra. Ba.
 E₁. S. both Bo. bothe M. Ad₁. om. L₁. 1343 and 1344 omitted in Ad₂. and I.
 1346. armed Ar. Bo. and all the other MSS. (cp. 1306). clene] brith L₁ (: mene).
 1347. faste Ad₁. fast Bo. M. 1348. Wonder] Wondirly Ba. lyvely] lili L₁.
 C. T₂. lyghtly E₁. forto] to Ba. C. T₂. take] stride E₂. bestride C. T₂. P.
 1350. fillen Bo. Ad₁. fellen M. 1351. ranne] ronne L₁. Lb. M. Di. C. rydden P.
 on] or Ar. ; in Ar. a pause-bar after they and another after ranne. 1352. Euerich]
 either C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. first] om. P. his] her Bo. T₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
 Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C. P. spere] speres Ba. Ad₂. P. brak] to brak M. T₂. 1354.
 sharpe Bo. Ad₁. sharp M.

- [leaf 23] And* as they hurtle / that all þe paleis shoke,
 Adrastus wakes, kyng* Adrastus / out of his slep awoke,
 And made in hast his chamberleyn's calle,
 and sends his men to them. And þorgh the courte / his worthy knyghtes alle, 1360
 Comaundyng hem to descende *and* se,
 And reporte / what it myghte be,
 This wonder noyse / in his courte be nyght.
 Adrastus's folk tell him two knights are fighting in his palace. And whan they saugh two straungē knyghtes fight 1364
 In platys bright / and in thikkē* maile,*
 with-outē Iugē /, they hadde grete mervaille* ;
 And disamayēd / of this vnkouth þing,
 As they fond / toldē* to the kyng. 1368
 ¶ And Adrastus / for derknesse of the nyght,
 From his Chambre / with many torchē* light
 He comes down, Into the courte / is discended down,
 AH his meynē / stondyng en-vyroun, 1372
 Of thyes knyghtes having ful gret wonder.
 And of manhode / he put hem first a-sonder,
 bids them stop fighting, Hem comaundyng / lich a gentil kyng,
 takes their swords away, and tells em they're great fools. To leuē her strif and sesen of her* fighting; 1376
 And entred Inne with a knyghtly loke,
 And first fro hem / her swerdēs both he took,

1357. And] *om. in all the MSS. (see l. 1358 and Notes).* hurtle] hurtled L₁. P.
 L₂. that] *om.* Ra. Ba. P. L₂. Ro. 1358. kyng] And kyng *all the MSS.* out
om. Ra. Ba. his] *om.* G. 1359. chamberleyns Bo. M. Ad₁. 1362. And
 And to P. And make Lb. reporte Bo. M. Ad₁. what] what that M. Di. T₂. Ro
 mighte Ad₁. might Bo. M. 1364. They] The Ar. two] tho G. 1365. and
 in] and Ad₁. Ad₂. I. thikke Bo. T₁. Di. Ad₁. Ra. T₂. thik Ar. G. Lb. M. Ba. C.
 maile] male Ar. 1366. mervaille] mervale Ar. T₁. 1367. And] And were E₂
 disamayēd] dismaied L₁. Lb. M. Di. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. 1368. As] And
 as L₁. Lb. E₂. Lyke as S. fond Ar. G. Ba. fonde Bo. Du. T₁. Lb. M. Di. Ap
 founde L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. C. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ro. tolde G. C. E₂. Ro. Ap. toolde Lb
 told Ar. T₂. L₂. tolde þei Bo. Du. E₁. talde thei T₁. tolden they M. Di. told
 alle Ro. þei tolde L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. to] vnto L₁. T₂. *om.* S. Ro. to the
 to Ap. And as they founde hit, tolde hit to þe kyng P. As thei we fonde the
 told to the kyng Ra. 1370. with] went with L₁. many] many a Ad₁. Ad₂. I
 Ra. *om.* L₁. torche M. Ad₁. Ra. torch Ar. torches Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. E₁. E₂
 1373. ful] *om.* M. Di. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. 1374. he] *om.* L₁. P. first] *om.* Bo
 both L₁. put hem first] first putt hem T₂. a-sonder] on sonder L₁. in sonder L₂
 1375. gentil] getil (*miswritten*) Ar. 1376. leuen Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. Ad₁. E₂
 leue M. Ra. C. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. sesen Ar. Ra. P. cessen Ad₂. T₂. E₂. cese Bo. Du
 Lb (seese). L₂ (seese). cese T₁. M. Ad₁. C. of] *om.* Ba. her] *om.* Ar. G. T₂. E₂
 fighting] fight Ba. 1378. her swerdes both] both her swerdes M. Di. C
 both] *om.* Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. he] *om.* P.

- Affermyng^t ek, as to his fantasie,
 It was a Rage / and a gret folye 1380
 So wilfully / her lyvës / to Iuparte,
 with-outë Iuge / her querel to departe,
 And specialy / in the derkë* nyght
 Whan neither myght of other han no sight, 1384
 Charging* hem vpon peyne of her lif
 To disseuer and styntyn of her strif. Tideus
 ¶ And Tydeus in al the hast he myght, [leaf 23, back
 Ful humblely* from his stede alight, 1388
 And right mekely / with cheer and contenance submits to
 Put hym hooly in the gouernance Adrastus,
 Of Adrastus / in al maner ping. and so does
 And Polymyte / mad ek no taryng* Polyneices.
 1392
 To light also / and woldë* not wipsey
 The kyngges biddynge / lowly to obey,
 So as hym ought / with duë* reuerence.
 And as thei stoodë* / both in his presence, 1396
 He gan enquerë first / of her estaat,
 The cause also why they weren at debat, Adrastus asks
 Of her cuntrees / sothly and her age, them who they
 I-axed ek / touching her lynage, 1400 are.
 Be discent of what stok pei were born.
 And Tydeus his answer / gaf to-forñ; Tideus says
 Toldë pleylny / and madë no lesyng,
1380. and a] and G. 1382. Iuge] a Iuge Ad₂. I. 1383. derke Bo. Ad₁.
 derk Ar. M. 1384. Whan] And whanne T₂. myght] mygh Ar. haue Bo. M. Ad₁.
 no Ar. Ap. eny Bo. T₁. L₁. Lb. a M. Di. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. no] om.
 Du. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. C. E₂. myghte of other han] of other myght haue E₁. 1385.
 Charging] Charching Ar. C. vpon] on Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. E₁. Ra. vp
 Ad₂. I. C. P. E₂. Ap. of Ad₁. Ba. in S. of] on Ra. Ba. her] om. I. C. 1388.
 humbly Ar. Bo. T₁. Ad₁. humbely M. Di. T₂. humbyly G. humble Lb. Ra. (cp.
 1631, 3746). alight] he light Du. 1389. right] righ Ar. 1392. taryng]
 taryng Ar. 1393. light] ligh Ar. alight Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. E₁. hie C. T₂. P.
 highe him E₂. wolde G. Bo. Lb. Di. Ad₁. wold Ar. M. Ra. C. woll P. wolde
 it E₁. 1395. due Bo. M. Ad₁. diew Ar. dew G. 1396. in Ar. a pause-bar
 also between thei and stood. stode Bo. T₁. M. Ra. stooode Lb. stood Ar. G. Ad₁.
 1398. Between also and why in Ar. qui crossed through. weren Ar. G. were Bo. Ad₁.
 1399. cuntrees] cuntree Ad₁. Ad₂. I. and] and of Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1400. I-axed
 Ar. G. He asked Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. And axed C.
 T₂. P. Ro. Ap. And asked Di. Ba. L₂. And asked hem E₂. ek Ar. eke Bo.
 also C. 1403 to 1468 lost in C. 1403. made Bo. M. mad Ad₁.

he's son to Caledonia's king,
and is banisht. How that he was / sonë to the kyng^t 1404

Of Caledoyñ / *and* ríztful heir therto ;
And of his éxile / the soth he told also,
As 3e han herde / in the storye rad.

Polyneices And Polymyte / with cheer *and* facë sad, 1408

vnto þe kyng / touchyng^t his contrè,
Seyde he was born / in thebës þe Citè,

says Jocasta was his mother, And Iocasta, the gretë famous quene,
his moder was / with-uten* eny wene. 1415

but holds his tongue about his father. But of his fader / whilom kyng^t *and* lord,
For verray shamë he spak not a word,

Only for he / 3if I shal not feyne,
his fader was / and brother bothë* tweyne : 1416

The which, in soth / he was ful loth to telle.

And eke the kyng^t / wold hym not compelle
Of gentillesse / but bad, with-oute blame,
Of his birthë* / forto haue no shame ; 1420

Still, Adrastus knows all about it. For hool the caas / and maner euery deH,
Touchyng^t his kynne / he knewe þe ground ful wel,

lich as it was, by ful clier report^t ;
Enforsyng^t hym forto do comfort, 1425

with aH his myght^t / and his bysy peyne,
This manly kyng^t / to the knyghtes tweyne,

And to hem seide / aforn hym as they stood,
He wiste wel / þat of ful worthy blood 1430

They were dyscended / touchyng^t ther kynrede.

He has the princes And made in hast / his officerës* lede

1404. that] *om.* T₂. E₂. L₂. Ro. sone Ar. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. T₂. sonr
Ro. son Bo. Ap. to] vnto L₁. Ra. Ba. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. on to Ap. 1408
Caledoyñ Ar. Caleoyñ G. Calidoynne Lb. S. Calidonye Ad₁. E₁. Calydone R.
Callidoun Ad₂. I. Calcedoyne Bo. M. Di. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ap. Calcedoyne Dr.
Calcedoyne T₁. Calcidoyne L₁. Ba. Ro. Calcidon P. ríztful] right L₁. 1409
his] þe L₁. E₁. *om.* Bo. T₁. Du. M. Ad₁. S. soth] cause T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. A₁
1410. Seyde] Seid þat L₁. þe] þat Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Ra. S. 1411. grete B.
gret M. Ad₁. 1412. withouten Di. E₁. L₂. withoute Ar. Bo. Du. Lb. M. Ad₁
Ad₂. I. Ra. T₂. P. without G. T₁. L₁. E₂. 1414. not] neuer M. Di. T₂. E₂. na
of Ba. a] oo Lb. oon Ba. 1416. bothe Bo. M. Ad₁. both Ar. 1418. wold
Bo. wold M. Ad₁. 1420. birth Ar. G. Bo. Ra. birthe T₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. forto
to Ra. 1424. Enforsyng] In forthryng Ad₂. I. 1426. the] these M. Di. Ad₂.
Ba. E₁. S. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. 1427. aforn] afon Ar. 1428. wist Bo. M. Ad₁
wele Bo. wil Lb. þat] *om.* Di. ful] fully Ad₂. *om.* Du. E₁. S. P. worthy] riall L.
gentyle Ro. 1430. officeres Lb. officeris Di. officers Ar. G. Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra

The straungë knyghtës / beyngt at debat,	
Thorgh his paleys / to chambres of estat,	1432
Eche by hym-silf / forto take his ese.	led to state-rooms.
And euery þing, in soth, that myght hem plese,	
was offred hem / lich to her estates.	
And whan they weren / disarmöd of her platis,	1436
Cusshewës / Greuës / and her sabatons,	Tidens and Polyneices disarm,
her harneys voyded / and her habergons,	
Tweynë* mantels / vnto hem wer broght,	are clad in rich garments
Frett with peerle / and richë stonys, wroght	1440
Of cloth of golde / and veluyt cremysyū,	
Ful richëly furröd with hermyū,	and furd wraps,
To wrap hem Inne / ageyn the colde morowe,	
After the rage / of her nyghtës sorowe,	1444
To take her reste / til* þe sonne* arise.	and then rest.
And than þe kyngt / in ful prudent wise,	Adrastus makes them friends,
First of alle / was not rekkëles	
þe knyghtës hertës / for* to sett in pees,	1448
that euer after, I dar afferme it wel,	and each is then true to the other.
Eche was to other trew as eny stele	[leaf 24, back]
During her lif / both in word and dede,	
vnder a knottë / bounde of broþerhede*.	1452
¶ And Adrastus / þe worthy kyng famous,	Adrastus feasts them,
A feeste madë / riche and plenteuous,	

1435. hem] to hem Lb. M. haue T₂. 1437. Cusshewes Ar. Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. Ra. Cusshews L₁. Cusheus Lb. Cusshwes Ba. Cusshens E₂. and her sabatons] solieres and haberions Ra. Ba. 1438. voyded] voyde L₁. habergons] Iambisons Ra. Ba. 1439. Tweyne Ra. Tweyn Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Ad₁. Twey Lb. M. Two T₂. mantels Ar. T₁. M. Ad₁. mantles Ra. mantelles Bo. manteles G. Lb. mantelis T₂. vnto Bo. M. to Ad₁. were Ad₁. wern Bo. 1440. Frett M. Ad₁. E₁. E₂. Freyt Bo. T₁. S. Freight Lb. peerle (perle) in all the MSS. and] and with P. 1440. omitted in G. 1441. veluet cremesyn Bo. velwet crimson Ad₁. 1442. Ar. has a pause-bar after furred. ermyū Bo. M. Ad₁. 1443. colde Bo. M. cold Ad₁. 1444. her] the M. Di. 1445. rest Bo. M. reste Ad₁. til] to Ar. G. Ba. Ro. sonne Bo. M. Ad₁. sone Ar. 1447. was] he was E₂. not] nothyng E₁. rekkeles Ar. rekeles P. E₂. rekelesse Ro. rekles T₂. L₂. Ap. recclis L₁. reccheles T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. rechles Bo. 1448. for to] to Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. so G. set] serue Ra. Ba. 1450. was to other] to other was P. trew] as trewe Bo. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. T₂. L₂. Ro. 1451. in] their Ba. word] wordes L₁. worke Bo. T₁. Ap. werk M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. wark Ba. and] and in M. 1452. knotte G. Bo. Ad₁. knot M. brotherede Ar. brotherhed G. brotherehede Bo. bretherhed M. Ad₁. 1454. feste Bo. Ad₁. fest M. made Bo. M. Ad₁.

- To thise knyghtes / hym-silf ther-at present.
- and sends for his daughters, And after mete / ful goodly he haþ sent, 145
 This noble kyng / for his doghters dere,
 Of gentylllessē / forto makē chere
 To the knyghtes / comē fro so ferre.
- who come in like the glad morning star, And lik in soth / as ludyfer the sterre 146
 Gladeth the morow / at his vprysing,
 So thoo ladies / at her In-comyng,
 With the stremēs / of her eyēn clere,
 Goodly apport / and wommanly manere, 146
 Contenaunce* / and excellent fayrnesse,
 To alle the court / broghten In gladnesse.
- heavenly fresh and pleasant to the strangers. For the fressshnesse* / of Her heuenly cheres 146
 So agreable was to the straun-gers,
 At her Entrē / that in especial*
- Tideus and Polyneices think the girls celestial beings, hem thoght it lik a thyng Celestial ;
 Enhastyng hem / in ful knyghtly wise 147
 ageynēs hem / goodly to arise.
 And as they mette / with humble contenaunce,
 Ful konyngly / did her obseruaunce,
 Hem conveying / to her sitting-place.
- But sothly I haue* leyser non nor space 147
 To reherce / and put in remembraunce,
 Hooly the maner / of her daliaunce.
 It were to longe / for 3ou to abide.

1455. To] And G. knynghtes Ar. S. has omitted 1455 second half to 145 second half, so that 1455 reads: To thes knyghtes come for (sic) so fe 1458. for to] to Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ra. Ba. P. make] make hem Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. P. make hem bothe Lb. 1459. come Ar. G. S. E₂. comen T₁. T₂. L₂. Ro. com Ap. ycome Bo. Du. L₁. Lb. M. D. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. þat com P. fro] from Lb. Ra. Ro. P. so] om. B. 1462. thoo] the L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. thilk M. Di. In-comyng] hom coming Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1464. apport] of porte Du. Lb. Ad. I. P. Ap. manere] chere L₁. of manere Ad₂. I. 1465. Contenaunce] Contenaunces Ar. G. T₂. E₂. 1467. fressshnesse] frochnesse Ar. 1469. her] th. Ro. especial] special Ar. G. Bo. T₁. M. Di. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂. Ap. (cp. 2823) 1470. Ar. has a pause-bar after it. 1472. ageyns Bo. ayens M. ageinst Ad. to arise Bo. M. for tarise Ad₁. for til arrise Ad₂. I. 1473. humbly C. 1474. konyngly Ad₁. konnyngly Bo. did Bo. dide M. dede Ad. 1476. haue Bo. M. Ad₁. ha Ar. nor Ar. Ra. T₂. ne Bo. T₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. L. 1479. for 3ou to abide] to you tabide Ad₁. Ad₂. I.

But wel I woot / that the god Cupide,	1480	and at once
By influence / of his myghty hond		[leaf 25]
And the feruence / of his firy brond,		
Her metyng ^r first / fortunēd hath so wel,		
That his arowes* / of gold, <i>and</i> not of stiel,	1484	
Ipercēd han / the knyghtēs hertēs tweyñ,		fall in love with them.
Thorgh the brest / with such a lusty peyñ		
That ther abood / sharpe / as spere or launce,		
Depe yfichēd / the poynt of remembraunce,	1488	
which may not / lightly / racēd ben away.		
And thus in Ioye / they dryvē forth þe day		They have games and fun all day,
In Play and Reuel / for the knyghtēs sake.		
And towards nyght / they her chambres take	1492	
At duē* tyme / as her fader bad,		
And on her way / the knyghtēs han hem lad		and then take the ladies to
Reuerently vp be many staire ;		
Takyng ^r lievē / gan anoñ repaire	1496	
To her logging ^r / in a ful statly toure,		their tower.
Assignēd hem / be the harberioure.		
And after spicēs / pleynly, and the wyñ		The 2 lovers drink wine,
In Coppēs gretē / wroght of gold ful fyñ,	1500	
With-oute taryng ^r / to beddē* streght they goñ.		and go to bed,
Touchyng ^r her reste /, wher thei slepte or noñ,		but of course can't sleep.
Demeth 3e louers / that in such maner thing ^r		
Bexperience han fully knowlecchyng ^r ;	1504	

1480. wel I woot] y woot wel Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1482. firy Bo. fuyri Ad₁. fury Du. 1483. fortunēd hath] hath fortunēd Di. 1484. arowes G. Bo. M. harowes Ar. arwes Ad₁. gold] *om.* G (*loue added by later hand above the line*). steel Bo. T₁. Ad₁. stel M. G. 1488. yfichēd] y-fixed E₁. fiechid T₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂ (fixhed). I. Ra (fechchid). Ba. C. S. the] to Ad₂. I. 1491. and] or Bo. knyghtes] kynges L₁. 1492. towards Bo. toward Ad₁. 1493. At] Ad Ar. due Bo. Ad₁. dieu Ar. dewe G. 1495. many] many a Bo. Du. L₁. Lb. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. P. E₂. Ro. Ap. 1496. Takyng] Taken Ad₂. I. lieve Ar. G. leue Bo. C. leue T₁. Ad₁. T₂. leef M. here leve Lb. P. gan] gonne M. T₂. and gan Ap. 1498. herbergeoure Bo. herbergour Ad₁. herbeioure M. 1500. cuppes Bo. Ad₁. coupes Ro. grete Bo. M. Ad₁. gold] *om.* G. 1501. to bed Ar. Bo. *and all, except* to bedde Lb. E₁. S. Ap. to bedde] *om.* P. to bedde streght] streight to bed L₁. Ra. Ba. Ro. 1502. wher Ar. wheper Bo. whedir Ra. whyther Ro. wer Ad₁. 1503. 3e] the P. 1504. by experience Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra. han Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra. fully] ful L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. fwlly such S. knowlecchyng Ar. Bo. Ad₁. knowlacheunge L₁. knowliching S. knowlegeynge Ro. knowyng Lb. P. Ap.

- For it is nat' declar'd / in my boke.
- Adrastus lies awake, But' as I fyndē / the kyng' al nyght' woke,
Thoughtful in herte / the story specifies,
Musing' sore / and ful of fantasies ; 1508
First aduerting' / þe gretē worthynesse
Of this knyghtēs / and the semlynese,
[leaf 25, back] Her lusty ȝouth / her force / and her manhode,
And how thei weren y-come of Royal blode. 1511
Al this he ganne / to reuolue aboute,
doubting whether he shall Ay in his herte / hauyng' a maner doute,
A-twenē two / hangyng' / in balaunce
wed his girls to Tideus and Polyneices, where he shuldē* / maken an aliaunce 1514
A-twene his doghtren / and the knyghtēs tweyñ.
For on thyng' / ay / his hertē gan constreyñ,
because of his Dream of the The remembrance / of his auioun,
Of which to-forn / I madē mencion, 1520
Touchyng' / þe lyon / and the wilde boor,
Wild Boar and the Lion, p. 52. It nedeth nat' / to reherce it' mor,
Casting alway / in his Fantasie,
What' it' myghte / cleerly signyfie, 1524
This dirke dreme / ; this was hid *and* cloos.
- Next day he But' on the morowe / Adrastus vp aroos,
And to the temple / the riȝte way he took,
And gan preie / deuoutly on his book 1528
To the goddes / his dreme to specefie.
And they hym bad homward' forto hye,
sees these Beasts painted on the knights' shields, And to beholde / in the knyghtēs sheldys
1506. alnyght Ar. 1512. weren Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. E₁. were (wer) *all the res*
ycome Ar. Ap. comen Du. Ra. E₁. C. L₂. come *all the rest*. thei weren ycom
comen thei were C. Royal Ar. Bo. Ad₁. T₂. ryal C. E₂. full riall L₁. worth
S. Ro. hygh Ap. 1515. A-twene] Bi twene Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad
Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. P. in] in a G. I₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. C. E₂. L₂. 151
where Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. Ad₁. were G. wheþer L₁. M. Di. shulde T₁. Du. I
Di. Ad₁. shuld Ar. G. Bo. M. maken A. makyn G. make Bo. T₁. M. Ac
an] any G. L₁. 1517. A-twene Bo. M. Ad₁. doghtres Bo. doghtres M. Ac
1520. Of] *om.* P. which] whome Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. to-forn (to fore)] therfo
E₁. I made] made I haue M. Di. made is C. P. E₂. makid is T₂. mencion]
mencion E₂. 1522. nedeth] nede L₂. it] *om.* Lb. Ra. Ba. mor] no more I
M. Di. C. T₂. E₂. 1524 *and* 1525 *are transposed in* I. 1526. aroos] rose R
Ba. he ros Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1527. right Bo. M. Ad₁. 1528. preie] to pray L
Ad₂. I. on] in Lb. 1530. forto] to G. 1531. beholde Bo. M. Ad₁.

- The fellë beestys / peynted in the feeldys ; 1532
 Which shal to hym /, be cleer inspeccioun,
 Ful pleynly / makë declaracioun and they explain
 Of his dreame / which he hadde in the nyght. his dreame,
 And Adrastus / enhasted hym ful riȝt 1536
 In her Sheldës wisly to beholde.
 Wher that he saugh / as the goddës tolde,
 In the Sheldës / hangyng vpon hokys,
 The beestës ragë / with her mortal lokys *. 1540 as Boccaccio
 And to purpos, lik as writ Bochas, says.
 Polymytë / ful streght enbracëd was [leaf 26]
 In the hyde / of a feerce lyoun. Polyneices's
 And Tydeus / abouen his haberioun 1544 and Tideus's
 A Gypon haddë / hidous / sharpe *and* hoor, gipon is of wild-
 wrought of the bristels / of a wylde boor. boars' bristles.
 The whichë* beestis / as the story lerys,
 ver wrought / and bete / vpon her banerys, 1548
 Displaiëd broodë* / whan they shulde fight.
 wherof the kyng / whan he hadde a sight
 Att hys repeer / in herte was ful glad,
 And with a facë / ful demur *and* sad 1552 Adrastus
 with his lordes, that he about hym hadde,
 to the temple / he thys knyghtës ladde. takes Tideus
 And whan they haddë / with all circumstaunces and Polyneices
 Of Rytys oldë / doñ her obseruaunces, 1556 to the temple,

1532. beestys peynted] painted bestes Ad₁. Ad₂. I. in] of Du. Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
 535. which] þat Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. in]
 n S. C. T₂. P. L₂. Ap. 1536. enhasted] hasted M. Di. 1537. her] the M.
 isly] wise L₁. auisely T₂. 1537 second half to 1539 second half is omitted in
 u. Di. and E₁., so that 1537 reads: In her Sheldes hangyng vpon hokes Du. Di.
 1. 1538. that] tha Ar. as L₁. Lb. P. as] þat Bo. 1539. vpon] vppe in T₂.
 540. lokes G. Lb. Ra. L₂. Ro. Ap. hokys Ar. Ad₁. Ad₂. E₁. crokes Bo. T₁. Du.
 1. M. Di. I. Ba. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. (see Notes). 1541. writ] wryteth Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
 with Ra. 1544. abouen Ar. G. Bo. Du. Ad₁. Ra. T₂. aboue T₁. M.
 abergon Bo. Ad₁. habirgoun T₁. 1545. gipon Bo. gepon Ad₁. gryphoun
 d₂. I. had Bo. Ad₁. om. Ad₂. I. 1546. bristles Ad₁. brestis Di. wilde Bo.
 ild Ad₁. 1547. whiche Bo. which Ad₁. Ar (in Ar. followed by a pause-bar).
 rys] leres (:baners) Bo. Ad₁. 1548. bete Ar. G. Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. Ra. E₁.
 T₂. P. E₂. beete Ap. bet Du. bett L₁. Lb. betyn L₂. betten Ro. vpon]
 Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1549. Displayed Bo. Displayde Du. brode Bo. Ad₁. brood
 r. 1555. had Bo. M. Ad₁. 1556. Of] With M. Di. rytes M. Ad₁. rightes
 o. Lb. L₂. her] his Bo. obseruaunces] observaunce (: cyrconstaunce) L₁.

Hom to the court / they resort^t ageyū.
 And in an hallē / riche and wel beseyū,
 This worthy kyng^t of herte lyberal,
 then feasts them in his court, Made a feeste / solempne *and* Royal, 1560
 Which in deyntees* / surly dyd excelle.
 But it^t were veyn / euery cours to telle,
 her straungē sewēs / and her sotyltees,
 Ne how they sat^t / lik to her degrees ; 156
 For lak of tyme I lat^t it* ouerslyde.

And after mete / Adrastus toke a-syde
 The knyghtēs two / and lik a prudent^t man
 In sykrē wisē / thus his tale he gan. 156

and has a talk with them. “**S**irs,” quod he / “I ne doute it nouȝt
 þat it is fressh / and grene / ay in ȝour thoȝt
 [leaf 26, back] How that^t first^t / by goddys ordynaunce,
 And after next^t / thorgh fatys purveaunce, 157
 And be workyng^t / of fortunēs hond,
 How that^t ȝe werēn brouȝt^t into this lond
 Bothē* tweyn / But^t now this lastē* nyght :
 Of whoos comyng^t / I am ful glad *and* light 15
 First^t in my-self / , shortly to expresse,
 whan I considre / and se the liklynnesse
 Of ȝour personys / with the Circumstancys
 And hool the maner / of ȝour gouernancys ; 15
 Seyng^t ful wel / , wherto shuld^t I feyne,
 ȝe likly be her-after to atteyn

1558. an] *om.* Bo. Di. Ra. Ba. E₂. beseyn] beseen (:ayen) M. Di. 15.
 feest Bo. feste Ad₁. deyntees Bo. Lb. Ad₁. deyntys Ar. deyntes M.
 deynteis L₂. Ba. surly] shortly Ro. 1563. and her] and other C. T₂. E₂. 15.
 lak] lyt lak Ap. I] they P. lat Ar. Bo. T₁. Ad₁. E₂. lette E₁. let P. L₂. lete
 Ro. leet Ad₂. it] *om.* Lb. M. Bo. T₁. P. E₂. Ap. ouerslyde] slide L₂. Ro. 15.
 and] *om.* M. Di. 1568. In] and in Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. seere G. Bo. Lb. M.
 Ap (ceere). secret Ad₁. Ra. E₁. Ro. secrett S. thus] and thus C. this
 he gan] began Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. he began Ra. Ba. 15.
 ne] *om.* Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. it] *om.* P. 15.
 it] *om.* Bo. Ad₂. P. is] *om.* Ra. ay] *om.* T₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₂. S. T₂. P. L₂.
 ȝour] my P. In M. the illuminated capital S of l. 1569 having been cut away
 first letters of 1570 and 1571 are gone, together with the words And after in l. 157.
 1571. goddys] the goddis Ra. 1572. thorgh] bi Ad₁. Ad₂. I. honde with col
 under e in Ar. 1574. How] Whw G. 1575. Bothe Bo. Ad₁. Both
 laste Ad₁. last Ar. Bo. 1578. liknesse G. 1579. with] and Di. the] alle Ra.
 Circumstancys] Circumstaunce (:gouernaunce) P. 1582. likly] lik Ad₁. Ad₂.

To* grete estat / and* habundaunce of good,
Thorgh 3oure birth / and 3our^r Royal blood ; 1584 As Tideus and Polynceices are of Royal blood,
3e may not^t faylë / but^t 3e hauë wrong^t,
For 3e are bothë* manly / and right^t strong^t.
And forto sette 3oure hertës mor at^t reste
My purpoos is / I hopë for the beste, 1588 Adrastus proposes that
So that^t in 3ou be no variance,
To make a knotte / as be allyaunce,
Atwixë* 3ow and my doghtres two,
3if 3oure hertes / accorde wel therto. 1592 they shall wed his daughters,
¶ And for I am fully in dyspeyr
To succedë for to han an heir^t,
Therfor 3e shal han possessioun,
Duryng^t my lyf / of half this Regioun, 1596 have half his land during his life,
Forthwith* in hond^t / and hool after my day. and all after.
Ther is no man / that^t therto shal sey nay.
And sothly after / whan that^t I am graue,
Eche of 3ow / shal his party haue 1600
Of this kyngdam, as I haue provided ; [leaf 27]
This to seyn / it^t shal be devyded
A-twen 3ow two, euerich to be crowned,
3oure pourparties / be equytë compowned 1604 Each shall have an equal share,
So egally / in euery mannys sight^t,
That^t ech of 3ow / reioysë shal his ryght^t.
And by 3our wit / 3e shul the lond amend,
And of manhode / knyghtly it diffend^t 1608 and defend the land against its foes.
Ageyn oure enmyes / and oure mortal foñ.

1583. To] The Ar. G. Du. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. and] of Ar. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. habundaunce Ar. G. Bo. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ra. T₂. abundance C. L₂. 1584. and 3our] and Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Ra. Ba. C. P. 1586. bothe Ad₁. both Ar. Bo. 1587. mor at reste] atte mor reste Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1591. Atwix Lb. Ra. Atwixt Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Atwixte Ad₁. Atwene M. T₂. Bitwex Ad₂. Bitwixë I. 1592. accord Bo. accorden Ad₁. wel] woll Ad₂. 1594. for to] to Bo. Ba. an] any Ra. 1596. half] haufe S. al Di. this] my C. T₂. P. E₂. 1597. Forth with G. Bo. T₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ra. C. forwith Ar. Di. Fourth with all T₂. 1599. whan] om. C. that] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. P. 1602. This] This is G. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. That is M. Di. 1603. A-twen Ar. Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. Ra. Betwene L₁. Lb. Atwix Ba. euerich Bo. euery Ra. eche M. Ad₁. 1607. shul Bo. shal Ad₁. Ra. 1609 oure enmyes] enmyes Bo. your enmyes M. Di. Ra. Ba. C. T₂. and oure] and youre L₁. M. Di. Ba. C. T₂.

- And for the daiës / passèd ben *and* goñ
 Of my desyrës / and my lusty 3outh,
 I am ful set / forto makë kouth 1612
 That 3e shal han / lik myn opynyoun,
 The gouernaunce / of this Region.
 To this entente / me semeth for the beste,
 3e to gouerne / *and* I to lyve in reste, 1616
 Fully to folowe / the lust of my desyris,
 Hunt and hauke / in wodës *and* Ryvèrys
 whan so euer / I hauë* therto plesaunce,
 And for to han / noñ other attendance 1620
 Vnto no thing / but vnto myñ ese.
 For which shortly / 3if it agrè and plese
 That I haue seid / to 3ou / that be so wis,
 And be according / vnto 3oure avis, 1624
 Delaieth not / but in wordës pleyñ,
 What 3ow semeth / gif answee ageyñ."
- Tideus **A**nd whan Adrastus / hadde his talë fyned,
 Tydeus / with hed / ful lowe enclyned, 1628
 As he that was / a verray gentyl knyght,
 With al his power / and his fullë* myght
 Ful humblely / thankëdë* the kyng
 Touchyng his profre of so high a thyng. 1632
 And for his parte / seide he wolde assente
 Fully of hertë / neuere to repente,
 To aH that euer the kyng hap sayd.
- [leaf 27, back]
 accepts Adras-
 tus's offer,

1611. and my] and of my Ad₂. I. 1612. ful] om. T₂. forto] to Ra. Ba. P
 make] make it Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. E₂. 1613
 han Bo. haue M. Ad₁. 1614. The] The hool C. hool the T₂. this] þe Bo
 this my P. al this E₂. 1616. I] me L₁. L₂. ; in Ra. a later hand has altered 3
 to gouerne into that ye shold rule. 1619. I haue (ha Ar.) therto] ther-to I hau
 M. D₁. 1621. Vnto no] To no M. Di. vnto myn] to myn Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1622
 For which] Wherefore M. Di. T₂. it] ye P. 1624. be] it be Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb
 Ra. Ba. be it Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. by L₂. vnto] to P. 1625. Delaieth] Delayet
 it M. Di. Ba. L₂. 1626. What] That L₂. Ro. gif] yeueth M. Di. 1628. fu
 om. Bo. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. with hed ful lowe] ful low with hed M. Di. 1630. and h
 and Ad₁. Ad₂. I. ful Ar. Bo. Ad₁. 1631. humblely Ar. Ap. humbeli L₁. M
 Di. Ad₁. P. humbly Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. Ra. Ba. Ad₂. E₁. S. C. T₂. E₂. L₂. R
 thanked] thanked Ar. and all the other MSS. except þankyng Bo. P. (see Notes
 1632. his] þe G. 1633. seide he] he seide he G. Ad₂. I. In P. assent has be
 erased and be content written by a later hand with paler ink. 1635. that euer] th
 euer that S. L₂. Ro. Ap. the] om. S. sayde (e underdotted) Ar. (see Notes).

- And Polmyte / was also wel apayd, 1636 and so does Polyneices,
 In the story / as it is conprehendid.
 And so they ben / bothë* / condescendyd
 The kynggës willë / to fulfille in dede
 From poynt to poynt / and ther-vpon procede, 1640
 wherso euer / that they wyne or lese.
 And Tydeus / made / his brother chese, who, by Tideus's courtesy,
 Of gentillesse and of curtesye,
 which that was / most / to his fantasye 1644
 Of the sustren / for to han to wive.
 And he in soth / chosen hath argyve, chooses Argeia,
 which eldest was / ful wommanly to se.
 And Tydeus / tok than* Dëyphylee, 1648 while Tideus takes Deiphyle.
 Of her beautë / most souereyn excellent.
 And Adrastus / thorgh-oute his lond hath sent Adrastus summons his lords to the wedding of his daughters;
 For his lordës / and his baronage,
 To be present / at the mariage 1652
 Of the knyghtës / and make no lettyng.
 And they echoñ · cam at his bidding,
 In goodly wysë / meke and ful benygne,
 Ageyn the day / that he dide assigne. 1656
 And thyder cam ful many lusty knyght,
 Ful wel beseyn / and many lady brizt,
 From euery Coost / and many freccsh sqwyer,
 þe Story seith / and many comunere, 1660
 1636. apayde (e underdotted) Ar. 1638. bothe Bo. Ad₁. both Ar. 1641. wherso] wher Ad₁. Ad₂. I. that] om. Du. 1642. chese] to chese M. Di. Ba. 1643. Of] As of Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. gentillesse Ar. G. Bo. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. I. E₁. C. T₂. gentillesse T₁. L₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. S. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. 1644. that] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. was] ys P. was most] most was C. 1645. sustren Bo. Ad₁. sistren T₁. T₂. systerne P. 1646. And] An Ar. 1647. which] That Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. eldest] oldest L₂. Ro. ful] om. P. wommanly] wonderly L₂. to se] of sight Ro (see 1648). 1648. tok than] than tok Ad₁. Ad₂. I. C. tok Ar. G. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. taken hath T₂; in Ro. l. 1648 reads And Tedeus choes Deiphyle ful right. Ar. has a second pause-bar after tok. 1650. thorgh-oute] thorgh M. Di. 1651. For] Of G. 1652. at the] at her Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1653. the] þese Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. Ro. thes two S. knyghtes] knyttes Ar. 1654. cam Bo. come M. Ad₁. 1655. ful] om. G. 1657. ful] om. G. 1657 and 1658. many] many a Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. E₂. L₂. Ro. 1659. many] many a Du. L₁. Lb. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. E₂. L₂. Ro. 1660. many] many a Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. C. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ro. many a freshe S. many a gode P. comunere Ar. Ad₁. E₂. Ap. comoner Bo. Du. Ra. Ad₂. comounere I. comyner T₁. L₁. Lb. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. comener M. Di. C.

[leaf 28]	To byholde the gretë Ryaltë	
	And the maner / of thys solempnýtë.	
But I really can't describe	But to tellë / aH the circumstances	
	Of Iustës / Reuel / and the dyuers daunces,	1664
all the feasting and love-making that went on.	The feestës riche /, and the gyftës grete, The pryvë sighës / and the feruent hete	
	of louys folk / brennyng ^t as the glede,	
	And devyses / of many sondry wede,	1668
	The touches stole / <i>and</i> the* ameraus lookes,	
	By sotyl craft / leyd oute* lyne <i>and</i> hokes,	
	The Ialous folk / to traysshē <i>and</i> begyle	
	In their awayt ^t / with many sondry wile :	1672
	Al this in soth / descryven I ne can.	
The news of the marriage	But wel wote I / the newë famë ran, This menë whilë* / with ful swift passage	
	Vnto Thebës / of this mariage.	1676
	And by report ^t trewe and not ^t yfeyned,	
	The sounē therof the eerës hath atteyned,	
reaches Eteocles in Thebes,	Myn auctour writ ^t /, of Ethyocles, Touchyng ^t thonour / <i>and</i> the gret ^t ences	1680
	Of Polymytë / heghly magnyfied,	
	And how that ^t he / newly was allyed	
	With Adrastus / in the londe of Arge.	
and troubles him.	The whiche thyng ^t / he gretly gan to charge,	1684

1661. Ryalte Bo. roialte Ad₁. 1663. telle Ar. Bo. *telle or tell all the other MSS. all] of Bo.* 1667. *In Ar. of stands before the column; the copyist had first written The, which is underdotted.* lous Bo. M. Ad₁. T₂. louyng G. C. folk^t flok Lb. 1669—1672 omitted in P. 1669. stole Ar. Bo. *and all the other MSS., except scole (sic) L₁. L₂. and sutill Ra. sotill Ba. (cp. 1670).* pe ameraus Bo. T₁. M. Ra. thamerous Ar. ameraus Ad₁. Ad₂. aneryous I. lookes] look (: hook) Ra. Ba. 1670. doun Ar. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S (adoun). oute Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. C. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. lyne] lines E₂. b^t lyne Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1671. Ialous Ar. Ielous Bo. Ad₁. gelous M.; *in Lb. is an empty space between The gelious folke and bigyle; the copyist was unable to decipher his original, or else this original presented a gap in this line.* 1672 their Bo. Ad₁. 1673. diseryuen Bo. Ad₁. descryve M. 1674. wote I] I wot M. Di. 1675. while Bo. M. Ad₁. whil Ar. 1676. this] this ilke M. thilk Di. the Ad₁. Ad₂. this hie C. Ro. this noble Ra. Ba. 1677. y-feyned Bo. feyned M. Ad₁; Ar. *has a pause-bar after trewe.* 1678. theres Ad₁. ther Ad₂. I 1680. pe honour Bo. M. thonour Ad₁. 1681—1746 lost in Ap. 1682. how om. Bo. C. T₂. P. E₂. 1684. the] om. C. he gretly gan] he gan gretly G gretly he gan M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. C.

Dredyng^t Iuly / that^t this mariage
 Shal after turne / vnto his damage,
 Sorē* musyng^t / and castyng^t vp and down
 The grete pouer / and the hegh renoun 1688
 Of Adrastus / the which of grekēs land^t
 Hadde al the power / soget^t to his hand^t :
 Lest^t that^t he / for Polymytēs sak
 wold vpon hym / a newē werrē make, 1692
 But^t 3if that^t he, lik the conuencioun,
 At tymē sette / delyuerēd the toun
 To his broder / by bond of oth* I-sworn*,
 Be couenauntes* / assurēd her to-forñ, 1696
 3if 3e remembre / late as I 3ou told^t :
 which he was nat / in purpos forto hold,
 But^t from his heste / Caste forto varye.
 And ther-vp-on list^t no lenger tarye, 1700
 Lich his desirē / to shapē remedies.
 And first^t he sente for his next^t allies
 In whoom he haddē / most^t his affiaunce,
 For his lordēs / that^t hadde gouernaunce 1704
 Of his kyngdom / to come to hym anofn.
 And whan they werēn present^t euerichofn,
 he seidē pleylnly /, wenyng^t for his best^t,
 That^t his hert^t / shal neuer lyve in rest, 1708
 But^t in sorowe / and in a maner drede,

Eteocles thinks
that, backt by
Adrastus,

[leaf 28, back]
Polyneices will
attack him,

unless he resigns
his crown at the
end of his 1st
year.

So he sends
for his allies
and lords,

and tells em he
can never rest

1685. Dredyng Iuly] Iuly dredyng T₂. Iuly] onoly Lb. gretly C. 1686.
 Shal] Shuld L₂. after] after tyme C. P. E₂. afterward T₂. turne Ar. Bo. and
 all the rest. vnto] into Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. to Ra. Ba.
 C. T₂. P. E₂. 1687. Sore Bo. M. Ad₁. Sor Ar. 1690. Hadde al] All had T₂.
 had of Bo. soget] subiecte L₁. to] vnto M. Di. Ba. 1692. make] take G.
 1693. 3if] om. M. Di. of L₂. lik] lyk to Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra.
 Ba. E₁. 1694. delinert Ad₁. 1695. bond] boondis Lb. of oth Ba. Ra (of
 om.). C. T₂. P. E₂. Ro. of oþer L₂. of both Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. L₁. Ad₂. S. of
 bothe M. Di. Ad₁. I. E₁. I-sworn Ra. Ba. E₁. besworn Ar. G. be sworn S. sworn
 Bo. and the rest. 1696. couenauntes] couauntes Ar. her] hir Bo. beforu
 Bo. M. Ad₁. 1699. heste Bo. Ad₁. cast Bo. caste Ad₁. 1700. tarye] to
 tarye Bo. T₁. E₁. S.; in Ar. a pause-bar after list. 1703. he] om. Ra. had
 Bo. Ad₁. his] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. Ro.
 most his] his most E₂. 1704. had Bo. Ad₁. 1706. weren Bo. (with a pause-bar
 after weren). were Ad₁ (Ar. and Ad₁. have no pause-bar in this line). 1707.
 wenyng] om. L₁. his] the Lb. M. Di. E₁. C. T₂. P. E₂. Ro. 1708. lyve in]
 haue Du. 1709. in a maner Ar. Ad₂. I. and the rest, except a manere in Ad₁.

till his brother
is dead.

Tyl his brother / outrely be dede ;
That he in Thebës / in his Royal sete
Myght allonë / regnën in quiete ; 1712
he mente hym-silf / shortly, *and* noñ other,
Vnperturbed / of Polymyte his brother.

But three sorts of
men are present.

And at this counsayl / diuers of entent,
¶ I fyndë writ / thre folkës were present. 1716
Some in soth / that feithful were *and* trewe,
And some also / that can chaunge of newe,
And other ek / that be-twixë* tweyn
Couertly kowde / vnder colour feyn. 1720

[leaf 29]

¶ Comendacioun
of Trouthe.

The first tells
Eteocles that a
King mustn't
lie.

The firste seide, abouen* allë* thyng
Trouthë* shuldë* / longë to a kyngt,
Of his word / not be variable,
But pleyn / and hool / as a Centre stable. 1724

¶ Nota.

¶ how trouth is
preferred in the
book of Esdre /
aform kyngges /
wymmen *and*
wyn.

¶ For trouthë* first / with-outen* eny wene,
Is Chief Pyler / that may a kyngt sustene,
In Ioye and honour / for to lede his lyff.
For trouth whilom / hadde a prerogatiff, 1728
As of Esdre / the book can specyfie,
Record I take / of Prudent Neemye,
That worthy kyngges / for al her grete pride,
Wyn / and wymmen / ben ek set a-syde, 173

1710. vtterly be Bo. M. be vtterli Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1712. alone Ad₁. alloon Bo
regne Bo. Ad₁. 1715. this] his Lb. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. C. E₂. at the
counsayl] also her comynge P. 1716. written G. 1717. were faithful G. 1718
can Bo. conne Ad₁. can chaunge] change konne M. Di. 1719. other] some othe
G. eke Bo. Ad₁. that] om. L₂. Ro. be-twix Ar. Ba. Ro. betwixe Ra. betwix
P. L₂. betwene Bo. T₁. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. C. T₂. E₂. betwe
Du. tweyn] þo tweine Ad₁. them both twayne Ad₂. them tho tweyn
1720. kowde vnder colour Ar. Bo. Ad₁. vnder colour koude M. Di. 1721
aboue al Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. abouen alle Ra. 1722. Trouthe Bo. M. Ad₁. Trout
Ar. T₁. Lb. Ra. shulde Bo. T₁. Lb. Ad₁. shuld Ar. M. Ra. longe Ar. Bo. T₁
Lb. M. Ad₁. long Ra. to] vnto T₂. E₂. Ro. til Ad₂. I. 1723. be] to be L
Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. C. T₂. P. variable] variable L₁. 1724. Centre
Countre L₁. 1725. trouthe Bo. M. Ad₁. trouth Ar. withoute Ar. Bo. Ad
M. withouten Di. 1730. Neemye Ad₂. I. Ba. 1731. That] What Ad
kyngges] kyng Bo. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. her] his L₁. 1732. and]
Ar. ek] also L₂. Ro. ; in Ad₁. E₁. S. 1732 is omitted ; Ad₂. and I. instead
wyn and wymmen have haue bene put down ; in Ra. after 1730 the space
one line is left blank, and then follows, making three lines for the two 1731 and 1732 :
Alforne kyngis wemen and wyn That worthi kyng for al ther grete pride Leid hy
down and put on a side. Ba. has no blank line ; after 1730 follow the same thr
lines as in Ra., only with wyfe for wyn and on syde for on a side (see Notes).

- With aH her pouer / and domynacioun,
 havyn^g reward / in comparisoun
 To trouthe^s myght / and trouthe^s worthynesse.
 For as Esdre / pleyⁿly / doth^h expresse, 1736
 Who taketh hede /, in the samē place,
 Be* the Influcēē / sothly / and the grace .
 Of trouthe alloñ / this oldē Neemye
 Gat^t hym licencē / to rēedife 1740
 The wallys newe / of Ierusalem.
 Which^h trouth is tresour / chief of euery rewme,
 For Salamon writ^t / how that^t thyngēs tweyne,
 Trouth / and mercy / lynkēd in a cheyne, 1744
 Preserve a kyng^g / lik to his degrē,
 From al meschief / and aduersitē.
 Allas therfor / that^t eny doublenesse,
 Variaunce or vnsicrenesse, 1748
 Chaunge of word^d / or mutabilitē*,
 fraude / or deceyte / or vnstabilitē*,
 Shuld in a kyng^g / han domynacioun,
 To causen after / his destruccioun. 1752
 Of kynggēs / redeth the story doune be rowe,
 And seth / how many / han ben ouerthrowe
 Thorgh her falshede / fro* fortunes whel*.
 For vnto god / it* pleseth neuer a del, 1756
 A kyng to ben / double of entent^t;
 For it may happē / that the world is blent^t

Truth is above
all.

By truth, Nehe-
miah got leave
to rebuild the
walls of Jeru-
salem.

¶ Trouth and
mercye preseruen
a kyng from al
aduersyte.

¶ Chaunge nor
doublenesse shal
not be in a kyng.

[leaf 29, back]

See how many
kings have been
overthrown by
falseness!

1734. reward] no reward Ad₂. I. comparisoun Bo. T₁. comparacion Du.
 1735. To trouthes] To trouth his P. The trouthes E₁. and] om. E₁. and
 trouthes] and his Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1738. Be the] The in all the MSS. 1742. trouth]
 om. C. P. E₂. L₂. tresour] om. Ro. chief] om. M. Di. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. T₂. euery]
 all the T₂. rewme T₁. reme Bo. Lb. Ad₁. reem M. reame T₂. Ro. realme
 E₁ (:Ierusalem). 1743. For] om. Ro. writ] writeth Ba. how] om. Ra. Ba.
 thynges] kynges L₁. L₂. 1748. vnsikernesse Bo. 1749. mutabilite] mutablite
 Ar. 1750. or] outh M. Di. vnstabilite C. T₂. L₂. Ro. vnstablete Ar. G.
 vnstabilitee Bo. and all the other MSS. 1753. redeth Du. redith Ad₁. rede
 Bo. 1754. And] om. L₂. seeth M. see Bo. Ad₁. 1755. Thorgh] For Bo. T₁. Du.
 L₁. Lb. M. Di. her] his L₂. Ro. fro] for Ar. Ra. Ba. (in S. for is underdotted and
 the usual abbreviation of and written above it). porugh Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di.
 whel] wel Ar. 1756. it] om. Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ap. it pleseth] plesith
 it M. Di.

- Ful oftē sith / be sleght^t of her werkyng^t.
 God sees all. But^t this the trouthe* / god seep euery thyng^t 1760
 Right^t as it is / for ther may be no cloude
 To-forn his sight^t / trouthe* forto shrowde.
 Tho' Truth may for a time be darkend,
 ¶ It may be clipped / and derked be disceyte, 1764
 By fals engyne / liggyng in a-weyte,
 As a serpent / forto vndermyne ;
 But^t at the last^t / it^t wol clerly shyne,
 Who that^t seith nay /, shew his briȝte bemes.
 For it^t in soth / of kyngdames *and* of Reawmes 1768
 Is berer vp / and conseruatrice
 From al Meschief / sothfast^t mediatrice
 To god abouē / who so list^t to se,
 To kepe a kyng^t / in Prosperitē 1775
 On euery side / as I afferme dar.
 Kings should keep their troth. For which ȝe kyngges *and* lordēs beth wel war
 ȝour bihestēs / Iustly forto holde !
 But, by Eteocles's falsness, Thebes was destroyd.
 And* thenk how Thebēs / with his wallēs* olde 1779
 Distroiēd was / platly / this no les,
 For doublesnesse / of Ethiocles,
 Which his puple / after sore about^t :
 Only for he nat^t by counseil wroght^t 1780
 [leaf 30] Of hem that^t wern / bothe trewe *and* wis :

1759. sith] sight L₁. sleght Bo. Du. sleight Ad₁. sleith T₁. seleghet Ro
 be sleght] by cause M. Di. her] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. werking Bo. Ad₁. wyrkyng
 P. Ro. workyng Ad₂. warking T₂. 1760. this] this is T₁. Du. L₁. Lb.
 Ad₁. I. trouthe Bo. M. Ad₁. trouth Ar. euery] al M. Di. 1762. trout
 Bo. troupe Ad₁. M. 1763. clipped] eclipsid Ad₁. 1764. liggyng] liyng Bo
 T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. P. 1765. trouth is written b
 the same hand to the right of the line in Du (red ink). and Lb (black ink). 1766
 at] a Ar. ; to explain it, the copyist of Ar. has written a trouth with black ink to th
 right of the line. 1767. Who that] Whos Bo. Lb. M. Di. Who so Du. wh
 T₁. L₁. seith] say M. Di. L₂. Ro. Ap. nay] nay nay M. shew] and shewe M
 Di. C. T₂. P. E₂. bright Bo. M. Ad₁. 1768. rewmes Bo. remes M. Ad₁. 1769
 Is] His Ra. P. And his L₁. conseruatrice] conservatiff L₁. 1770. Fro Bo. M
 Ad₁. For Ad₂. I. 1772. Prosperite] gode prosperite M. Di. long prosperit
 T₂. 1774. ȝe] pe Bo. T₂. I. om. L₁. E₁. P. beth Ar. Du. T₂. be Bo. T₁. M
 Ad₁. Ra. C. wel] om. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. P. 1776. And] I Ar. Ra. Ba
 S. thenk] pinke L₁. Lb. Ra. Ba. E₁. Ro. thenketh C. E₂. thynckyth L₂. T₂. I
 walles] wal Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. E₁. S. Ap. 1777. this] pis is Du. Lb. Di. Ra
 Ba. P. E₂. L₂. 1778. For] For the L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. C. T₂. P. E₂. Ro
 doublesnesse] doublesnes L₂. E₂. 1781. wern Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. C. Ro. were
 T₁. Du. Lb. Di. Ra. were E₁. S. T₂. P. L₂. bothe M. Ad₁. both Bo.

- ym lyst^t nat^t worchen / after her devys ;
 ut lefte trouthe / and sette his fantasye
 o be gouernēd / by fals flaterye *, 1784 He gave up
 Truth,
 That^t bad hym thenkē* / how he was a knyght,
 and to holde of forcē /, morē* than of* right,
 Duryng^t his lyf / lordship of the touñ,
 and not^t to lesē his possessioun 1788 ¶ the counsayl
 of Flatareres.
 and followd
 those who bade
 him stiek to
 Thebes
 or no bond / nor heestēs mad toforñ ;
 But^t lete his brother / blowēn* in an horn,
 Vher that hym lyst^t / or pypen in a red. and let his
 brother whistle
 for it.
 This was the counsail / platly *and* þe Reed 1792
 Of swich as liste nat^t / to seyn the soth,
 But^t falsly flater / with her wordēs smoth.
 And whan they haddē / hool her talē fyned,
 Ethyocles / fully is enclynyn^d, 1796 Eteocles decides
 Who so euer ther-at^t / laugh or wepe,
 ik^t her counsayl · possessioun to kepe,
 who that^t sey nay / or gruche ther-ageyñ ; to stiek to his
 crown.
 ym to contrarye / he thoght^t was but^t veyñ. 1800 ¶ How the 3eer
 was come out
 that Ethiocles
 regnyd.
 His first year's
 reign in Thebes
But^t in this whylē* hath the shenē sonne
 The tweluē signēs / round^t aboutē Ronne
 With Ethiocele / be Iust^t rekenyng^t*,
 In Thebēs was crownēd / lord *and* kyng^t, 1804
 holdyng^t the sceptre / and the dyademe ;
 That^t be resoun / as it wolde seme,
 The tymē was ful complet^t / *and* the space, is ended,

1782. worchen Bo. Ad₁. worche M. werke T₂. devys] avise Ad₃. I. 1783.
 lefte Bo. Ad₁. 1784. flaterye Bo. Ad₁. flatrye Ar. 1785. thenke Bo. M.
 thenk Ar. Ad₁. 1786. And] om. T₁. to holde] tolde Di. to shelde E₁. more
 Bo. T₁. M. mor Ar. om. C. than of] than Ar. G. Ap. 1789. bond] bondes
 Bo. nor Ar. Ra. ne Bo. M. Ad₁. T₂. heestes] heste Ra. Ba. to forñ Lb. aforne
 M. E₁. beforñ Bo. Ad₁. Ra. T₂. 1790. his] youre L₁. blowen G. Bo. T₁. Lb.
 M. E₁. Ap. blowe Ar. Ad₁. Ra. C. T₂. 1793. Swich Ar. Bo. Du. siche T₁.
 Soche E₂. Suche *all the rest*. as] þat Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. E₁. S. C. T₂. 1795.
 hool her tale] holy her tale M. Di. Ba. C. hool the tale Lb. her hole tale P.
 talle whole S. her tale holy T₂. fyned] Ifynid S. feyned (: enclyned) Ra.
 Ba. 1799 *and* 1800 *omitted in* Du. 1800. hym to] Or holdeth the P. contrarye]
 contraire Ra. Ba. E₂. he] him Ba. E₂. L₂. they Ro. om. Lb. Di. was] it was Ra.
 Ba. L₂. Ro. 1801. while Bo. Ad₁. Ra. whyl Ar. hath] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. shene
 Ad₁. sheen Bo. 1802. The] Th Ar. twelve] XII Bo. Ad₁. round] hath Ad₁.
 Ad₃. I. 1803. Ethiocele Ad₁. Ethiocles Bo. rekenyng Bo. Ad₁. reknyng
 Ar. 1805. and the] and M. Di.

and he ought to give up the crown to Poly- neices,	Of couenaunte / he shulde voide his place,	180
	And Polymytē ek / his iournē make	
	Toward Thebēs /, pocessioun to take	
[leaf 30, back]	Of duē* titte / But he haddē wronge :	
	Which thoght in soth / the ȝeer was wonder longe	181
	Of his Exil / er it kam aboute.	
who, doubting his brother,	And for he hadde / in hert a manere doute	
	Lest in his broder / ther wer falshed* found	
	Taquete hym-silf / lik as he was bound,	181
asks Adrastus	¶ To Adrastus / he gan declar his herte,	
	Beseching hym / this mater to aduerte,	
to advise him whether he shall sit still	And ther-vpon / to ȝiue a counsayl sone,	
	Touchyng his right / what was best to done,	182
	wher it was bet to goñ / or to abyde,	
	Or liche a knyght manfully to Ryde	
	hym-silf allone / and makē no massage,	
or claim Thebes .	For to Chalaunge / his rightful heritage	182
	with-Inne Thebēs / outhē* be pees or stryf,	
	And ther-vpon / to Iuparte his lif.	
	Thus was he set / for al his fercē brother.	
	But Adrastus / sothly / thoght a-nother	182
	Bet was to sendē / than hym-silf to goñ	
Adrastus says Polynices may be trapt	Lest he were trapped among his mortal foñ ;	
	Havyng his brother / suspecte in this cas	
	That be fraude / or be some fallas,	183
	He woldē* werk / to his destruccioun,	

1808. voide] leve Ad₂. I. 1809. Polymyte Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra. iourney Bo. iornay M. Ad₁. 1811. due Bo. Ad₁. dieu Ar. G (*in the margin due written by late hand*). had Bo. Ad₁. 1812. was] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. C. T₂. Ro. wonder] om. Ra. Ba. S. ouer Bo. Lb. passyng Ro. 1813. er Bo. or M. Ad₁. 1815. falshede Bo. Ad₁. falsed Ar. 1816. to acquyt Bo. Ad₁. 1819. *The copyist of Ar. has first written counsayl good, then underdotted good and added sone.* 1820. was] were Di. Ba. C (where). was best] best was Ra. Ba (wer). 1821. wher Ad₁. C. Wheper Bo. Lb. M. was] were Ad₁. C. abyde] byde C. 1823. message Bo. M. Ad₁. 1825. oyther Ar. Ap. eithre Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. E₁. E₂. aythre Ba. outhere Ra. C. Ro. other Lb. Ad₁. T. L₂. om. P. be] with T₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. 1827. feers Bo. M. Ad₁. 1831. this] be Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. 1832. or be] or M. Di. Ad₁. I. Ra. Ba. S. T₂. P. C (other for or). or ellis Ro. 1833. He] How he L. wolde Bo. Lb. Ad₁. wold Ar. M. T₂. wolde werk] werke wolde Ad₁. Ad₂. I.

he wer hardye to entren in-to toun.		if he goes to Thebes:
for which he bad hym / prudently tak hede,		
and concludyng / how it was mor spede	1836	
that some other be / to Thebës sent,		he must send some one else there.
to apparceyvë fully the entent		
Of Ethiocle / outward / be some signe,		
and wher that he / his crounë* wil resigne	1840	
for thilke* 3eer /, lik as he made his ooth:		[leaf 31]
and whan he knewe / how his purpoos goþ		
her-vpon to werken / and procede.		
Thus Adrastus / wisely gan hym rede.	1844	
And whil they trete / vpon this matere,		Tideus at once undertakes to go.
Tideus with a manly chere		¶ Tydeus took vpon hym to don þe massage of Polymyte.
Tideus* vttrely / for his broder sake,		
his massagë / he wold vndertake	1848	
with hool thempris / of thenbassyat,		
for it wilful / or infortunat:		
he wil not sparë / what so that betide.		
But Adrastus / on the toþer syde,	1852	Adrastus and Polyneices
and Polymyte / in conclusioun,		
Veren contrarye / to that opynyoun,		
and seidë sothly / as hem thoghte right,		
with that he was / so wel / a preuëd knyght	1856	
and discended of so worthy blood,		

1834. entren Ar. G. E₁. Ro. Ap. entre Bo. *and the rest.* into] in G. om. Ra. Ba.
oun Ar. Ro. the toun Bo. *and the rest.* 1836. Ful] Fully L₁. P. E₂. was] were M.
i. C. T₂. P. E₂. mor] moste Lb. was mor] more were Di. spede] nede C. 1839
and 1840 *transposed in I.* 1840 *omitted in S.* wher] whether Lb. M. Di. P. if
a. Ba. E₂. his] the P. crowne Bo. M. Ad₁. croun Ar. wil (wol)] wolde L₁. M.
vi. L₂. Ro (walde). 1841. thilke Ad₁. Ra. pilke Bo. thilk Ar. M. C. T₂. L₂.
e ilke L₁. ylke S. 1843. worken Bo. M. 1845. trete Ar. Bo. T₁. Lb. M.
d₁. Ra. vpon] of Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1846. manly] manful Di. ful manly L₁.
E₂. 1847. Saide] Sade Ar. 1849. whith Ar. thempris] emprise M. Di.
e embassyat Bo. thenbassyat M. Ad₁. 1850. wer it] whether it were M. Di.
Whether hit be Lb. wilful Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ra. Ba. E₁. P. Ro.
p. welful Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. C. T₂. E₂. L₂. or] other C. infortunat] fortunat Di.
1851. what so that] what so Bo. Du. Lb. M. C. T₂. P. L₂. whatsoeuer E₂. what
o hym L₁. 1852. þat other Bo. M. Ad₁. 1853. Polymyne Ar. 1856.
with] Syn Ra. that] om. Ro. so wel a preued Ar. G. T₁. L₁. Lb. C. T₂. L₂. Ro.
ap. so wel a proued Du. M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. E₁. so wel approved a Ad₂. I.
o well a priued E₂. so well a preferred P. so well a proued S. a gentil Bo (so
vel om.).

try to stop him
but in vain,

That^t they nolde / for non erthly good,
For aH Thebës / with the regalye,
Put his body / in such Iupartie.

186

But aH this thyng^t / auaylëd hem* riȝt noȝt^t;
For he wol forth / how dere that^t it be boȝt^t,
Takyng^t lievë / first^t of aH thestatys,
And armëd hym in Mayle / and surë platys,
And Shope hym forth / vpon his Iournë.

180

¶ The sorowe of
Deyphile whan
Tideus went
toward Thebes.

who madë sorowe / but^t Dëyphylë,
with bitter teerës / dewëd al her face,
Ful ofte siȝh / swownyng in the place,
Trist and mournyng / in her blakë* wede,
Whan she saugh / that^t he took his stede;

180

[leaf 31, back]

Tideus rides

So inwardly gan ences* her mone,
Seyng^t her lord^t / so ridë forth allone
Vpon his way / this worthy Tydeus.

187

And in al hast^t, the story telleth vs,
He spedde hym so, makyng^t no delayes,
That^t in space / of a fewe daies

187

to Thebes,

The heghe toures of Thebës / he gan se,
And entred is / into the Citë,
Wisly enquiryng^t / wher the Paleys stood;
And lik a knyght^t / thidere streght^t he* rood,
Markyd ful wel / in many mannys sight,
lich Mars / hym-silf /, in stiel y-armëd* bright^t,
Til he atteynëd hath the chief^t dongoun,

188

goes to the
palace,

wher as the kyng^t / helde his mancyoun.
And thorgh^t the paleys / with a knyghtly look
Into the haH / the righte way he took,

188

and into the
hall

1858—1922 *lost in C.* 1861. hem Bo. G. M. Ad₁. hym Ar. om. I
auaylëd hem] he sette by Ad₂. I. 1862. that] om. M. Di. Ra. Ba. 189
armed] armeth G. sure] in sure M. Di. 1866. *The rubric begins with* Whom
sorowe, but these three words have been crossed out with red ink. 1869. blake I
blak Ar. M. Ad₁. 1871. So] She M. gan ences(e)] ences gan Ar. G. T₂. E₂. I
gan encessen Ba. gan tencresen Ra. gan to in-crease S. 1872. ride] ridy
L₁. M. Di. T₂. E₂. 1876. in space] in þe space Ad₁. Ad₂. I. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ro.
fewe] fewe Ad₁. Ad₂. I. T₂. P. E₂. 1877. gan] gan to G. 1878. the] om. I
1880. streght he] he streght Ar. G. Bo. Du. T₁. Lb. 1882. y-armed] I-arm
Ap. armed Ar. Bo. and all the other MSS. (cp. 1306, 2618). 1883. Ar. I
a pause-bar between atteyned and hath. 1884. Wher as] ther as Bo.

- From his stedē / whan he lighte douñ,
 Not afered / but hardy as lyoun, 1888
 Vher as the kyng / with lordēs a gret route
 In the hallē sittynge / rounde aboute, where Eteocles
 siths with his
 lords,
 He entred Inne / most manful of corage,
 To* execute / the fyn of his* massage. 1892
 And as hym thougt / conuenient and due
 Ful konnyngly / he gan the kyng salue
 Requiring hym /, of kyngly excellence,
 In goodly wise / to* zeve hym audience, 1896
 And not disdeyne / neither in port ne cheer,
 Sith he was Come / as a massagere
 From Polymyte / his ownē brodere dere;
 Gynnyng his talē / thus, as 3e shal here. 1900 and speaks to
 them.
 "Sir*," quod he, "vnto 3our worthynesse [leaf 32]
 My purpoos is breefly to expresse
 Theffecte only, as in sentement,
 Of the massagē why that I am sent. 1904
 It were in veyn / longe processe forto make.
 But of my mater / the verrey ground to take,
 In eschewyng of prolixité,
 And voyde away / al superfluytē, 1908
 Sith 3oure-silf best ought to* vnderstonde
 The causē fully / that we han on hond,
 And ek conceyve / pentent of my menyngē,
 Of rightwisnessē / longgyng to a kynge : 1912
 First considred /, 3if that 3e tak hede,

¶ how wisly and
how knyghtly
Tideus did his
massage.

Tideus reminds
Eteocles

1887. whan] whan þat Lb. lighte M. Ad₁. light Bo. a-lyte Di. T₂. down] adoun
 M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. P. E₂. Ro. 1888. affered Bo. a ferd Ad₁. as] as a T₁. Du. L₁.
 M. Di. Ad₁. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. P. Ro. 1892. to execute Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. Texecute
 Ar. his] this Ar. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. 1894. Ful konnyngly] Iful konnyng G.
 1895. kyngly] knightly Bo. L₁. T₂. P. kyndely Du. 1896. to] om. Ar. Ap.
 1898. Come Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ra. T₂. Ar. has a pause-bar also between
 was and Come. messagere Ad₁. messangere Bo. T₁. M. 1900. Gynnyng]
 Begynnyng L₁. S. Ap. his] a P. thus as] as thus Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. 1901.
 Sir only in P. and Ro. (re-inserted), omitted in all the other MSS. (Q in Ar. is a
 two-line capital. In Ra. the late corrector has written O king at the beginning of the
 line.) 1903. only] hooly T₂. P. E₂. Ro. Ap. 1908. And] to Di. 1909. to]
 om. Ar. Ad₁. Ap. 1911. conceyve] to knowe Di. toucheinge P. my] the L₂
 Ro. menyngē] comyng Di. 1913. that] om. G. Ad₂. I.

	whan Edippus / the oldē* kyngt was dede,	
of his agreement	how that 3our-silf / and 3oure brother blyve	
	For the croune / contagiously gan stryve	1916
	As mortal foon / by ful gret hatrede,	
	whiċh of 3ow two / shulde* first succede :	
	Til that 3e were / be meenys reconcyled,	
	3e to regne / and he to be exiled	1920
that he should reign for one year only, and then give place to Poly- neices,	Out of this towne / for a 3eerēs space,	
	And than ageyn / resorte to his place,	
	To regne as kyngt, and 3e to voyden oute,	
	So as 3our tourne / be processe kam aboute ;	1925
	Eueriċh of 3ow / paciently tendure	
	Thenterchaungyngt / of his Auenture,	
	Who were put out / or stood in his estat,	
	Ther-vpon to makē no debat,	1928
	Lich the Couenauñt / and conuencioun,	
	Enrollēd vp / by lordys of this tourn,	
[leaf 32, back]	Which of reson may not be denyed.	
¶ The request pat Tideus mad in þe name of Polymyt vnder the title of þe Conuencioun.	And sith 3e han / a 3eer / y-occupied,	1935
	¶ Polimytēs / requereþ 3ow of riȝt,	
	Taqwite 3ou / lik a trewē knyght,	
	In eschewyngt of mortal werre and strif ;	
who now re- quires him to keep his oath.	Sith 3e han had : a Prerogatif	1936
	As eldest brother / forto regne aforī :	
	And thenketh eke / how that 3e ar sworn	
	3our oth to kepe / and make no taryngt,	
	Holy aduerting / lich a prudent kyngt,	1940
Truth should be more	That* trouth is mor / in comparisoun,	

1914. olde Bo. M. Ad₁. old Ar. 1916. gan Bo. Ad₂. gonne Ad₁ stryve] to strine Ad₁. Ad₂. 1918. shulde Bo. shuld Ar. 1919. that] om Ad₁. Ad₂. 1921. Out] om. L₁. this] his Lb. 3eeres] yere Bo. Du. 1922. ageyn anoon Di. resorte] resorten P. to resorte Ad₁. Ad₂. I. to] vnto M. Di into T₂. E₂. his] þis L₂. Ro. Ap. 1923. as] as a Lb. C. P. to voyden voiden Bo. to voide L₁. E₁. S. L₂. Ro. to be voided T₂. 1925. to endure Be M. Ad₁. tendur G. 1926. þe entrechaungyng Bo. Ad₁. thenterchangyng M 1927. Who] Whos M. Di. put out] pacient Bo. his] om. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I 1928. Ar. has a pause-bar after make. 1930. this] þe Bo. M. Di. Ad₁. Ba T₂. P. E₂. 1932. y-occupied Bo. M. Ad₁. 1933. requireth Bo. M. Ad₁ 1934. Taqwite] to acquite Bo. M. Ad₁. and the rest. lik] as S. C. T₂. P. E₂ 1941. That] The Ar. G.

- Than all the tresour / of your Regyoun,
 Mor acceptable / vnto god and man
 Than all richessē / that 3e rekne kan. 1944
 Wherefor in hast / and lat ther be no slouthe,
 Quyteth your-silf / Iustly of your trouthe
 Vnto youre brother / avoyding this Cytē,
 And lat hym regnen / in his Ryaltē, 1948
 The croune of Thebes / a 3eer to occupie.
 Than wol al Grecē / preise *and* magnyfie
 oure hegh renoun / and may sey non other
 But 3e han quytte you / Iustly to your brother. 1952
 This hool theffecte / of al that I wil seyn,
 Answer expectaunt / what 3e list sende ageyn.”
Whan Tydeus / haddē told his tale,
 Ethiocles, trist / and wonder pale, 1956
 his conceyt first in maner* hath refreyned,
 Dyssimulyng / vnder colour feyned,
 Shewyng a cheer / in maner debonayre,
 To his entent / wonderly contrayre, 1960
 Inward in hertē / wood and furious,
 Turnyng his facē / towarde Tydeus,
 he gan abraid / and at the last out-brak,
 And euen thus / vnto hym he spak. 1964
 “I haue* gret mervaille /” quod he, “in my thoght
 Of the massagē / which* that thow hast broght,
 That my brother / as thow hast expownyd,
 to a king than
 treasure.
 Eteocles
 should then
 quit Thebes,
 and let Poly-
 neices reign his
 year.
 Eteocles turns
 pale
 and dissembles.
 [leaf 33]
 ¶ The answer of
 Ethiocles.
 He wonders
 that Polyneices
 wants Thebes,

1943. vnto] both to M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. 1944. all Ar. G. E₁.
 L. T₂. Ap. al pe Bo. and the rest. G. has omitted, of l. 1946 the words silf Iustly of
 your trouthe, and of l. 1947 Unto youre, and reads: Qyteth your brother, etc.
 1947. avoyding] voidyng L₁. Lb. M. Di. this] the P. 1948. regne Bo. M. Ad₁.
 1952. 3e] om. Bo. 3e han quytte] ye acquite C. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ro. that ye aqyte P.
 e haue (om. quytte) Ra. E₁. S. Ap (beginning of line is burnt). that ye haue Ba.
 1953. This] This is Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. P. L₂. Ro.
 [ool] om. Ba. Ro. the hole P. of] and Bo. om. P. al] om. Lb. P. I] om. Du.
 1955. had Bo. M. Ad₁. hadde told] told had M. Di. Ra. Ba. 1957. first] om.
 P. L₂. in maner] in a maner Ar. G. Bo. M. Di. in maner first hath C. 1958.
 dyssimelyng Bo. M. disimeling Ad₁. 1959. a] om. M. Di. 1961. herte] in h.
 i. 1963. abraid] to braid G. 1964. vnto] to Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁.
 Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. he spak] he gan to spake (sic) Ra. 1965. I ha Ar. I
 haue Bo. Ad₁. In a G. 1966. woch for which Ar. which] om. S. that] om.
 Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ra. Ba. E₁. C. P. broght] I-brought E₁.

- Desyreth so / in Thebës to be crownyd, 1968
 seeing that he
 has so much
 in Argos.
 Havyng reward^t / to the habundance,
 The grete plentè / and the suffisaunce
 That^t he hath nowe / with the kyng of Arge :
 That^t me semeth / he shuld lityl charge 1972
 To han lordship / or domynacioun
 In the boundis / of this lytyl toun,
 Sith he regneth / so fresshly in his flours,
 Eteocles
 Surmountyng^t / aH his predecessours 1976
 Be newe ences / thorgh fortunis myght^t ;
 says he hoped
 Polyneices
 would have
 helpt him,
 wherof in hert^t / I am right^t glad *and* light^t :
 Fully trustyng^t / ȝif I haddë nede
 To his helpë, that^t with-outë drede 1980
 lik a brother than* I shuld^t hym fynde
 To meward feithful, trewe, *and* kynde :
 Supposing^t pleynly euermor
 Of this regne / he set / but^t lityl stor, 1984
 Nor cast^t hym not^t / for so short^t a while
 As for a ȝeer, his brother to exile,
 not wanted
 to banish him
 into poverty.
 To lyve in pouertè / and gret^t distresse.
 he wol not^t suffre it^t / of his high* noblesse. 1988
 It^t were no token as of brotherhede*,
 But^t a signë rather of hatrede,
 [leaf 33, back]
 To interruptë my possessioun
 Of this litil porë Regioun." 199
 Al that^t he spak /, who that^t couth aduerte,
 Of verrey scorn, Rooted in his herte ;

1972. That] as Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. that as M. Di. h
 þat he Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. 1977. thorgh] of Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. B
 S. be C. T₂. 1978. right] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. 1979 *and* 1980 a
transposed in Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. 1979. ȝif] if þat L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. though R
 1981. than] that Ar. G. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. than I shuld] than sholde I Ac
 shold I (than om.) Ad₂. I. 1982. To meward] To me ware Bo. feithful] feit
 fully Bo. T₁. Ad₁. E₁. sothefull Ba. trewe] om. Ra. Ba. S. 1986. to] forto
 his] me his Ad₂. I. 1987—2400 *lost in* Ro. 1987. pouerte Lb. M. pouert
 E₂. pouert Bo. and] and in Lb. C. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. 1988. high] gret. Ar.
 Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. (see 1987). 1989. brotherede Ar. 1991. my]
 my Bo. T₁. Du. E₁. S. me of my L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ra. Ba. 1992. Of] as f
 litil] litil and poure M. Di. litil pore] pore litil Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. Of this lit
 And put from this Ra. Ba. 1993. *second* that] om. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S.

As it' sempte /, the story can 3ou teche,
 By the surplus / sothly of his speche : 1996
 ¶ He myghte nat' no lenger hym refreyne
 But' platly seide / "as a-twene vs tweyne,
 I menē thus / Polymytes and me,
 There is* no bonde / nor no surētē, 2000
 Nor feith y-made / that' may hym avaylle,
 As he cleymeth / to haue* the gouernaylle
 Of this Citē, nowther 3ere nor day.
 For I shal lette hym, sothly, 3if I may, 2004
 That' he shal not' be title of no bond,
 Reioysse in Thebēs / half a foot' of* londe.
 ¶ late hym kepe aH that' he hath wonne !
 For I purpoos / as I haue* begonne, 2008
 To regne in Thebēs / enforth al my lyve,
 Maugrē al* hem / that' ther-ageynēs stryve,
 And in despit' / of his frendēs aH,
 Or the counsaylle / that' hym list' to calle. 2012
 lat' hym be sur /, and knowē* this right' wel,
 his manacyng' I dredē* neuer a del.
 And sikerly, as to my devis, As to Tideus,

1995. sempte Ar. T₂. sempt C. L₂. semed Bo. T₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ra. semeth E₁.
 1997. nat] om. C. T₂. E₂. no] om. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. P. nat no
 lenger hym] not him no lenger Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. E₁. not hym longer L₁. M. (lenger).
 Di (lenger). him nat lenger than Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. (longer). S. refreyne]
 restreyn Ba. E₂. 1999. I] In G. mene Ad₁. meen Bo. 2000. is] nys
 Ar. L₂. no bond] nother bond M. Ad₂. I. Ra. neither bond Ad₁. Ba. S. noon
 ower bonde Di. nor no] nor (no om.) Bo. T₁. Du. (ner). L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂ and
 I (nouthir). Ra. Ba. E₁ (nother). S. C. T₂. P. E₂. ne (no om.) Lb. surete L₁. Ra.
 T₂. suerte Bo. M. Ad₁. E₂. surte T₁. 2001. y-made Bo. made M. om. Di.
 2002. haue Bo. M. Ad₁. ha Ar. 2003. nowther nor Ar. Ad₂. Ra. nouthir nee
 T₂. L₂. neither ne Bo. T₁. Ad₁. nor ne M. Di. 3ere] nyght G. 2004. shal]
 will T₂. lette] om. Bo. sothly] trewly T₂. om. P. 3if] and Lb. 2005 and 2006
 omitted in Ad₂. I. 2005. be title of no] bi no title of Ad₁. Ra. Ba. 2006. of]
 om. Ar. Ra. L₂. 2007. kepe Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ra. (keep). C. T₂. P.
 E₂. L₂. Ap. all] om. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. 2009. enforth Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. M.
 Di. C. T₂. P. Ap. hens forth L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. (henforth). Ba. E₁. S. E₂. L₂.
 forth Lb. lyve Ar. Ap. E₂. lyf Bo. T₁. M. Di. Ad₁. C. P. L₂. life Ba. E₁. S.
 iff Lb. Ad₂. I. T₂. Du. liffe L₁. Ra. 2010. al] of Ar. G. 3ere ageyns Bo.
 ber ayen Ad₁. there ayenst Lb. 3er ageyne wil L₁. stryve Ar. C. P. E₂. Ap.
 stryf Bo. M. Di. Ad₁. T₂. stryfe Ba. E₁. striff Lb. Ad₂. I. Du. striffe L₁. S.
 2012. hym] he G. to] om. Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. E₁. 2013 and 2014 omitted in
 Ad₂. I. 2013. knowe Bo. M. know Ar. Ad₁. 2014. manassyng Bo. M. Ad₁.
 drede Bo. Ad₁. dred Ar. I drede] drede I M. Di. 2015. as to] as at Bo. vnto
 M. Di. C. as vnto Ba. my devis] myn avis T₁. E₁.

	It scheweth wel / that thow were not wis,	2016
Eteocles is surprised at his presumption in bringing Polyneices's message.	But supprised with a manere rage, To take on the / this surquedous massage, And presume / to do so hegh offence, So boldely / to speke in my presence.	2020
[leaf 34]	But al yfere / avayl* shal right noght. For the tyding* / that thou hast ybrought, Shal vnto hym / be but disencrees. He better werë* / to ha ben in pees, Than of foly / and presumeioun Ageynës me / to seke occasioun.	2024
While Eteocles lives,	For whil I lyve / and thereto her myñ hond, As I seide erst / he wynneth her no lond, whyl the walles* / of this tounne may stond. For Fynaly I do the vnderstand That they shal first / be betē doune ful lowe,	2028
Polyneices shall have nothing to do with Thebes.	And alle the tourës / to the erth ythrowe, Er he in Thebës / haue eny thyng ado. Lo! her is al / . retourne and sey him so!"	2032
Tideus is silent	W han Tydeus saugh the feruent Ire Of the kyng / with angre set a-fire, Ful of despit / and malencolye; Conceyuyng eke / the grete felonye	2036

2017. surprised] supprisyng Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. suppress C. P. E₂. supposing Ra. Ba. S. 2020. So] And G. boldely M. A. boldly Bo. 2021 and 2022 omitted in Ad₂. I. 2021. yfere] in fer Ra. avayl Bo. M. avayl Ar. Ad₁. 2022. dyding Ar. tidying Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. A. S. G. tithyng Ra. Ba. tidyngis L₁ (bi for the). E₁. C. T₂. P. L₂. tithynges (Ap. burnt to that). ybrought Ar. T₂. Ap. broght Bo. G. and the rest. 2023. vnto hym be] be vnto hym Du. But alle shal be vnto hym disencrees Ad₂. I. (2021). 2024. were Bo. M. Ad₁. wer Ar. to haue ben T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. to be Ra. to habene M. to haue Bo. E₁. 2025. and] and of Ad₂. I. 2026. ageyns Bo. Ad₁. ayens M. 2027 and 2028 omitted in Ad₂. I. 2029 and 2030 are transposed in T₁. Du. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. 2029. while Bo. Ad₁. whyl Ar. While that C. walles Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. wallis G. vnto Ar. Lb. L₂. Ap. walle Bo. L₁. M. Di. E₁. P. wal C. E₂. 2030. Fynal] plainly C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. vnderstand] vndrestonde Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂. 2031. bete] fylled G. 2032. alle the] a Du. to the erth Ar. Du. L₁. M. Ad₁. T₂. to therthe T₁. Lb. to the yearth vnto the erthe Bo. to erthe Ra. Ba. ythrowe] throwe T₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. C. 2033. Er Bo. Or T₁. M. C. ado Ar. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. at do G. to Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. 2037. and] and of Ra. Ba. S. C. T₂. E₂. 2038. velonye G. M. D.

In his apport, lik as he wer wood ;
 This worthy knyght a lityl while* stood, 2040 a while,
 Sad and demur / or oght he wolde seyn.
 But at the laste thus he spak ageyn.
 ¶ " Certës," quod he / " I conceyve of newe
 Aboute the, thy counsel is vntrewe, 2044
 I dar it seyn and vowen at the best*,
 Nor thow art not feithful of thy behest,
 Stable of thy word / that thow hast seid to-forñ,
 But deceyveable / and falsly ek forsworñ, 2048
 And ek periur / of thyn assurèd ooth.
 " But wher so be / that thow be lief or loth,
 I seye the shortly / hold it for no fage,
 Al shal turn / vnto thy damage, 2052
 Trust it wel / and in ful cruel wyse.
 Alle Grekës londe / shal vpon the ryse,
 To ben avenged / and manly to redresse
 The gret vntrouth / and the hegh falsnesse 2056
 Which that thow hast / ageyn thy brother wrought.
 It shal ful dere / after this be bought.
 And verrely in dede, as thow shalt lere,
 kyng Adrastus / wil medle in* this matere, 2060 and King Adras-
 And alle the lordes / about hym envyrour,
 That bounde ben / to his subieccioun ;
 Prynces / Dukës / and many a noble Knight,
 In sustenyng / of thy brotheres right, 2064
 Shal on a day / with sper and with sheld,
 Ageynës the be gadered in a feld,

2039. appor Ar. 2040. while Bo. M. Ad₁. whil Ar. 2041. or Bo.
 Ad₁. saien (:ayen) M. seyn (:ageyn) Di. 2042. thus] this Lb. he spak] spak
 the Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. spak] seide C. T₂. P. E₂. 2043. of] om. Di. 2045.
 [vowen] vowe it C. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ap. avowen L₁. Lb. avowe it S. wele avov Ba.
 at the best] at the lest Ar. G. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. S. Ap. at the last (:beheste)
 Ra. 2046. Nor] Ne Lb. E₂. om. P. not] om. E₁. Nor thow art not] nor thou
 art also Ad₁. nor thou art nat also Ad₂. I. 2050. wher Ar. wheþer Bo. that]
 om. M. Di. 2051. the] it Ad₂. I. 2052. turn Ar. torne Bo. tourne Ad₁.
 torne Ra. vnto] to Ra. 2054. ryse] arise M. Di. C. T₂. E₂. 2056. vntrouthe
 M. Ad₁. vntrouth Bo. 2057. ageyn] vnto Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. S. thy my
 Ra. Ba. 2060. medle in] medle of Ar. L₂. Ap. 2062. bounde Bo.
 bounden M. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. to] vnto Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2063. many a] many M. Di.
 2066. Ageyns Bo. Ad₁. ayens M. gadert Bo. M. Ad₁.

and prove him
false.

knyghtly to preue / al be oñ assent,
That thow art fals / and double of entent, 2068
Of thy promys / atteynt and ek outrayed.
And leue me wel it shal not be delayed,
But in al hast / execute in dede.
lik thi desert / thow shalt haue* thy mede. 2072

God will punish
him.

For god aboue / of his rightwisesse,
Swich open wrong / shal in hast redresse,
And of his myght / al such collusioun
Reforme ageyn / and al extorsioun. 2076
For this the fyn / falshede shal not auaile*,
Ageynës* trouth / in feeld* to hold batayle*.
Wrong is croked / bothen halt and lame.

In Polyneices's
name, Tideus
defies Eteocles.
[leaf 35]

And here anoñ / in my brotheres name, 2080
As I that am next of his* alye
In his querel / I shortly the deffye,
Fully avysed / with al myn hool entent.

Tideus calls
on the Theban
lords

And 3e* lordës / that ben her* present, 208
I 3ow requere / of 3our worthynesse,
To sayë trouth / and to ber wittnesse,
whan tymë comëþ* / Iustly to recorde
How 3our kyng / falsly can discorde 208
From his heest / of fals variaunce.
And thenk how 3e / of* feith and lygaunce
Ar bounde echoñ / 3e may not go ther-fro,

2067. to] it to Ad₁. prone Bo. M. Ad₁. 2068 and 2069 transposed in
2071. al] al the E₁. P. all with second l underdotted Ar. execute] executid I
Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 2072. haue Bo. Ad₁. ha Ar. 2073. aboue Bo. M. A.
Ra. abouen Ba. of] and C. T₂. P. E₂. 2074 omitted in Ad₁. here, inserted
the bottom of the column after 2096; replaced in Ad₂. and I. by quite a new lin
This matcer off riht shall redresse. open] opon Ar. vpon Bo. 2075. conclusio
G. 2077. this] þis is Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. P. L₂. auaile] vaile.
G. E₂. L₂. Ap. 2078. Ageyn Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. in feeld] om. Ar. G. Ad₁. A.
I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. L₂. Ap. to hold] to haue Bo. to take Ra. Ba. batayle]
batayle Ar. G. Ap. any batail Ra. Ba. 2079. bothen Ar. bothe Bo. both A.
2081. As] And P. I that] that I L₂. next of his allie Ra. Ba. his next alye
Bo. and all the rest (see Notes). 2082. In] On Ra. Ba. I] om. Ad₁. Ad₂.
the] om. I. 2084. And] All L₁. ye lordes] the lordes Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du.
M. Di. Ra. E₁. S. T₂. her] ther Ar. G. E₁. S. 2086. say trouthe Bo. 2C.
cometh Bo. M. comp Ar. 2088. falsly] iustly M. Di. (see 2087). can] ga
T₂. 2090. thenk] thenkith C. T₂. P. how] on howe P. E₂. of feith] on fe
Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. P.; (cp. 2646).

Forto obeye / and seruë, bothë* two, 2092 to obey Poly-
 This nexte 3eer / now anoñ folowyng, neices the next
 As to 3our lord / and 3our trewë kyng, year,
 ¶ Polemytes / thogh he be now absent,
 By Iust accord / maad in parlement, 2096 as they agreed
 At 3oure devis / which sitten her a-rowe,
 Engrosëd vp / as it is wel knowe,
 And enrollëd / only for witnesse
 In 3oure registres / to voyden al falsnesse, 2100
 That non of 3ou / vary may of newe
 Fro that I sayë* / but he be vntrewe.
 For which I redë / 3our-silf to acquyte.
 Lat no tymë / lenger / 3ou respit, 2104
 But at onys / with-oute mor tarying,
 Of manly forcë / fetteth hom 3our kyng,
 Maugrë his foon /, lik as 3e ar bounde,
 And lat in 3ow / slouthë* noñ be founde, 2108
 To put hym Iustly* in pocessioun
 This my consayl in conclusioun."

and at once
fetch him home;
as their king.

Whan Tydeus / hadde his massagë saide,
 lik to the chargë / that was on hym laide : 2112

[leaf 35, back]

As he that list / no lenger / ther soiourne,
 Fro the kyng / he gan his facë tourne,
 Nat astounded / nor in his hert afferde ;
 But ful proudly / leyde hond on his swerde, 2116 ¶ How manly

Tideus turns,
and goes

2092. both Ar. Bo. Ad₁. 2093. next Bo. Ad₁. folowyng Bo. folwinge Ad₁.
 2098. vp] was vp E₂. wel] right well E₁. is wel] wele be Di. knowe] I-knowe Ra.
 S. 2099 in T₁. is almost wholly cut away. 2099—2294. in Ra. the original four
 leaves are lost and new ones, with modernizing alterations of the text, supplied by the
 same hand that has made several alterations in other parts of the poem. Ra. is put within
 brackets, when quoted in this part of the poem ; (2099 in Ra. reads : And eke enrolled
 for to bear wytnesse). 2100. voyden]avoiden Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2102. Fro Ar. T₁.
 Du. I. P. L₂. Ap. From L₁. Ad₂. E₂. For (see 2103) Bo. G. M. Di. Ad₁. (Ra.) Ba.
 E₁. S. C. T₂. Of Lb. say Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. but] but yf E₁. E₂. om. L₁. (except :
 Ra.) he be] yee be Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. S. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. (Ra.) Ba. 2103.
 your-self Bo. M. Ad₁. to acquite Bo. acquite Ad₁. 2106. fetteth Bo. T₁. Ad₁.
 fecchith L₁. Lb. M. fetteth hom] (fet home agayn Ra.) 2108. slouthë
 T₁. M. C. slouth Ar. Bo. Ad₁. slouthë non] no slouth Bo. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. P. E₂.
 (And lett in you no slothfastnes be founde Ra.) 2109. Iustly] Iustlyly Ar.
 2110. This is Bo. M. Ad₁. 2111. Ar. has a second pause-bar after hadde. 2113.
 he] him Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. that] om. S. he that list] pat list he Di. ther] om.
 S. P. no lenger ther] pere no lenger Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. soiourne] to soiourne Ad₁.
 Ba. 2115. astonyed Bo. M. astoneid Ad₁.

Tydeus de-
parte[d] from
be kyng.

And in despit / who that was lief or loth,
A sternë pas / thorgh the halle he goth,
Thorgh-out the courte / and manly took his stede,

Tideus rides

And out of Thebës / faste gan hym spede,
Enhastyng hym / til he was at large,

2120

towards Argos.

And sped hym forth / touard the londe of arge.

¶ Thus leue I hym / ridë forth a while,
whilys that I retourne ageyn my style

2121

Eteocles is
furious.

Vnto the kyng which in the hallë stood
Among his lordës / furious and wood,

In his hertë / wroth / and euel apayd
Of the wordes that Tydeus had* said ;

2122

Specialy / havynge remembraunce

On the proude dispitous diffiaunce

Whilys that he sat in his Royal See ;

Vpon which he wil auenged be

2123

Ful cruelly, what euere that befallë.

He bids his
Chief Constable

And in his Irë / he gan to hym calle

Chief constable / of his Chyualrye,

Chargynge hym / fastë* for to hye

2124

with al the worthy Choys* of his housholde,

which as he knewe most manful and most bolde,

pursue Tideus

In al hast Tydeus to swe

To-forne or* he out of his lond remwe,

2125

2117. was] were Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2118. sterne Ad₁. stern Bo. M. 2119. Thorgh-out] Thorough Ad₁. Ad₂. I. C. P. E₂. manly] om. Ba. 2120. faste P. M. faste] manly Ad₁. Ad₂. I (see 2119). 2121. In G. til he was at large 2122. And sped hym 2122 are omitted, and the two remaining half lines made into a line. 2123. ride] ridynge Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. (Ra.) Ba. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. I. a while Bo. M. Ad₁. awhile Ar. 2124. (and 2131) whilys Ar. whiles] whils Bo. Du. While Ad₁. 2125. which Ar. pat Bo. M. Ad₁. 2126. apayed with e underdotted Ar. 2128. the] (those same Ra.) wordes] worde] Di. Tydeus] he Ad₁. Ad₂. he he I. had] hath Ar. G. Lb. Di. Ad₂. I. P. 2129. (Ra: Inspecciall haunynge in). 2130. the proude] the proude and M. I. (Ra. The stout and proude d. d.) dispitous Ar. 2132. which] be which L₁. (R wil] wolde Ad₁. Ad₂. I. (Ra.) Ba. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. auenged] venged Bo. 2133. what euere that] what that euere M. C. G. what so euere Di. what euere A. Ad₂. I. euere] euel Du. 2136. Charchyng Ar. faste Lb. M. fast Ar. I. Ad₁. 2137. al] om. Lb. worthy] om. P. choys (chois, choyse, choise)] Choys Ar. choose G. chose E₁. C. chosyn L₂. 2138. which] Such Lb. C. T₂. P. L₂. Ap. as] pat Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. om. M. Di. manful] manly S. second m. om. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. 2139. al] al the Bo. Ad₂. I. C. P. to] for to C. T₂. P. E₂. 2140. or Bo. M. Ad₁. ar Ar. om. T.

Vp peyn of lyf / and lesyng^t of her hede,
 With-oute mercy / anon that^t he be dede.
 And of knyghtës / fyfty weren in nombre,
 Myn autour seith /, vnwarly hym tencombre
 Armed echon in mayle *and* thikkë* stiel,
 And ther-with-al // yhorsëd wonder wiel.

[leaf 36]

and slay him.

Fifty knights
ride to waylay
him.

2144

At a Posterne / forth they gan to ryde
 By a geynpath / that^t ley oute a-side,
 Secrely / that^t no man hem espie,
 Only of tresoun / and of felonye.

¶ How falsly
Ethyocles leyde
a bussment in
the way to haue
slayn Tydeus.

2148

They haste hem forth / al the longë day,
 Of cruel malys / forto stoppe his way,

2152

Thorgh a forest^t / aH of oñ assent^t,
 Ful couartly to leyn a bussment^t
 Vnder an hiH / at^t a streite passage,

To falle on hym at^t mor auauntage,

2156

The samë way / that^t Tydeus gan drawe,
 At^t thylke mount^t / wher that^t Spynx was slawe.

Tydeus rides on

He nothing^t war / in his opynyoun,

Of this compassëd / conspiracioun,

2160

But^t Innocent^t / *and* lich a gentyl knyght^t,

innocently,

Rood ay forth / til* that^t it drowe to nyght^t,

Sool by hym-silf / with-outë companye,

havyng no man / to wisse hym or to* gye.

2164

¶ But^t at^t the laste / lifyng^t vp his hede,

but at last sees

2141. Vp] Vpon L₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. S. Oon Lb. peyn of] om. Ad₃. I. and] om. Ad₁. 2143. And] om. P. of] of thes Ba. weren Ar. Lb. (Ra.) E₁. E₂. werne Ap. were Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. 2144. tencombre M. Ad₁. to encombre Bo. 2145. thikke Lb. Di. Ad₂. I. (Ra.) Ed₂. thik Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Ad₁. Ba. E₁. S. C. P. L₂. theke Ap. theffk T₂. 2146. yhorsed] horsed M. Di. wonder] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2147. At] And G. And at Ad₂. I. posterne M. Ad₁. posteru Bo. gan] gonne M. Di. to] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2154. couertly C. T₂. P. E₃. L₂. Ap. (Ra.) couartly Ar. I. couarly G. cowardly Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. E₁. S. vnwardlye Ba. to] for to M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. leyn] hym G. 2155. at a] of Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2156. falle] fallen E₂. 2157. way] day Di. 2158. At] And L₂. thilke Lb. Ad₁. thilk Bo. T₁. pe ilke L₁. pat P. the S. that] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂. was] wer Ba. 2162. (He rode styll forth Ra.) til that] tyll that I. Ap. (Ra.) to that Ar. G. til Bo. *and all the rest*. 2164. wisse] wyse E₁. E₂. wissehe S. L₂. wysche Ap. or] ne M. Di. S. nor Ad₁. Ad₂. I. T₂. G. nothir Ap. to gye] gye Ar. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. (hys waye for hym to gye Ra.) 2165. at pe laste Lb. Di. atte laste Ad₁. atte last Bo. at last M. lifyng] heuing Ad₁. Ad₂. I. (by lifytng Ra.)

Toward Eue / he gan taken hede ;
 Mid of his way · riȝt as eny lyne,
 boght he saugh / ageyn þe monë shyne 216
 armd men. Sheldës fressh / *and* platës bornëd bright,
 The whiche environ / casten a gret lyght ;
 [leaf 36, back] ymagynyng / in his fantasye
 Ther was treson / and conspiracye 217
 How Tydeus
 outrayed fifty
 knyghtes þat
 lay in a-wayt
 for hym. wrought by the kyng / his iournë forto lette.
 And of al that / he no thyng ne sette,
 But wel assurëd / in his manly herte,
 list nat onys / a-sydë to dyuerte, 217
 He puts his
 spear in rest, But kepte his way /, his sheld vpon his brest,
 And cast his sperë / manly in the rest.
 And the firste platly / that he mette,
 and kills the
 Theban leader. Thorgh the body / proudly he hym smette, 218
 That he fille ded · chief mayster of hem aȝ ;
 The rest attack
 him. And than at onys / they vpon hym falle
 On euery part / be compas envyroun.
 But Tydeus / thorgh his hegh renoun, 218
 His blody swerde / lete / about hym glyde,
 He fights all. Sleth *and* kylleth / vpon euery side
 In his Ire *and* his mortal tene,
 That mervaille was he myghte so sustene 218
 Ageyn hem aȝ / in euery half besette.
 But his swerde was so sharpë whette,

2166. Eue] evyn Ba. heuene Adj. Adj. I. taken] to take C. T₂. P. 216
 Mid] In myd Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Adj. Adj. I. Ba. S. Amydde P. In mydd
 Lb. In mynde E₁. his] þe Bo. way Ar. Bo. M. Adj. eny] a Ba. L₂. 217
 The which] whiche Lb. casten Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. E₁. casted M. Adj.
 caste Di. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. environ casten] cast environ Lb. 2173. forto]
 M. Di. 2174. he no thyng] nothing he Ba. L₂. ne Ar. Ap. ne om. G. F
and all the rest. (And for all that he nothyng thereof sett Ra.) 2178. tl
 his T₁. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ba. E₁. S. (ryght manly in þe r. Ra.) 2179. first Bo. Ac
 2180. proudly] om. Adj. Adj. I. myghtly L₁. smertly L₂. prudently
 2181. fell Bo. M. Adj. 2182. than] with þat Adj. Adj. I. they] þei g
 Bo. 2184. hegh] gret Adj. I. om. Lb. 2186. Sleth] Slowe Lb. kyllet
 kylled E₁. styketh Adj. I. (That he dothe slee and kyll Ra.) 2187. an
 and in Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. E₁. S. 2189. in Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Adj. Ac
 I. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. on Lb. M. *and the rest.* half] parte Lb. Adj. Adj. I. I
 S C. T₂. P. 2190. whette Ar. G. T₁. L₁. M. Di. (Ra.) C. T₂. P. E₂. Ap.
 whette Bo. Du. Lb. Adj. Adj. I. Ba. E₁. S. L₂.

That his foomen fonde ful vnsoote.

But he, allas ! / was mad / alight* a-foote,

2192 Tideus is beaten
to the ground,

Be forcè grounded in ful gret distresse ;

But of knyghthod *and* of gret prouesse

Vp he roos, maugrè aH his fooñ,

but gets up,

And as they cam, he slogh hem oon be oñ,

2196

lik a lyouñ / rampaunt in his rage.

And on this hille / he fond a narrow passage,

seizes a narrow
pass,

whiçh that he took / of ful high prudence ;

And liche a boor stondyng at his* diffence,

2200 and defends
himself.

As his foomen / proudly hym assaylle,

[leaf 37]

vpon the pleyn / he made her blode to Raylle

Al environ, that the soyl wex rede,

Now her now ther / as they fillè dede,

2204

That her lay on / *and* ther lay two or thre.

So mercyles / in his crueltè

Thilke day he was vpon hem founde.

And attonys / his enemyes to confounde,

2208

wher as he stood / this myghty champioun,

Be side he saugh / with water turnèd down,

An hugè stoñ / largè / rounde *and* squar ;

He rolls a huge
stone

And sodeynly / er that thei wer war,

2212

As it haddè leyn / ther for the nonys,

Vpon his foon / he rollèd it at onys,

down on his
foes,
kills ten,

That ten of hem / wenten vnto wrak,

2191. foomen] foon E₁. fonde Bo. M. C. G. founde T₁. Ad₁. founden L₁. founde it E₂. Ba. (dyd fynde hyt Ra.) (it *not in* Ar. G. Bo. *or the rest*). ful] well Lb. vnsoote] vnswoote Bo. T₁. Du. L₁ (ounswote). vnswhete Lb. vnsvette E₁. 2192. allas] napeles L₂. he allas] alas he Lb. mad] *om.* E₁. alight M. Di. light Ar. Bo. *and all the rest*. a-foote Ar. G. S. Ap. on foote Bo. *and all the rest, except on fete* Lb. E₁. 2193. ful] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. gret] sore L₂. (Ra.) 2194. and of] and Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2198. this] the Di. P. narrow Ad₁. narowe Bo. narwe Ad₂. streit Ba. (strayght Ra.) 2200. his] *om.* Ar. G. T₂. P. L₂. Ap. (ystandyng at defence Ra.) 2202. her] þe Di. 2203. environ] newe y-ronne P. wex] waxe Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂. E₂. was L₁. (A. e. so that t. s. waxte r. Ra.) rede] al red Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. 2204. they] *om.* Ad₂. I. fille Ar. fillen Bo. Du. Lb. Di. Ad₁. E₁. filn C. fill P. Ap. fellen T₁. M. S. E₂. fallen Ba. T₂. (dyd fallen Ra.) felle one Ad₂. fel oon I. 2205. second lay *om.* Ba. 2206. in] than in Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. (thus in hys crueltie Ra.) his] his fers E₁. here Lb. 2207. Thilke Bo. Ad₁. Thilk M. vpon] on Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2211. An] And Ar. 2213. had Bo. M. Ad₁. leyn Ar. Bo. M. Ad₂. C. ley Ad₁. 2214. it] *om.* Bo. 2215. wenten Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. M. Ad₁. T₂. went L₁. Ad₂. I. L₂. vnto] to Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. C. T₂. (then wenten vnto Ra.)

	And the remnaunt amasēd drogh a-bak ;	221
	For on / by on / they wente to meschaunce.	
and then all	And fynalý / he broghte to outraunce	
	Hem euerychoñ / Tydeus, as blyve,	
the 50 but one.	That non but on / was* left of hem* alyue ;	222
	hym-silf yhurt / and ywounded kene,	
	Thurgh his harneys / bledyng on the grene.	
	The theban knyghtes / in compas rounde aboute	
	In the vale / lay* slayēn* aH the route,	222
	which pitously / ageyn the monē gape ;	
	For non of hem, shortly, myght eskape,	
	But dede echon / as thei han deserued,	
This one knight Tideus kept,	Saue oñ excepte / the which was reserued	222
	By Tydeus / of intencioun,	
to tell Eteocles	To the kyng / to make relacioun	
[leaf 37, back] how his fellows had sped.	how his knyghtes / han on her iournē sped,	
	Euerich of hem / his lyf left for a wed,	223
	And at the metyng / how they han hem born :	
	To tellen al / he surēd was and sworñ	
	To Tydeus / ful lowly on his kne.	
	By which ensample / 3e opynly may se	223
	Ageynēs* trouthē* / falshed hath no myght.	
¶ Hou trouth with lityl multi-	Fy on querilis / nat grounded vpon riȝt,	

2216. drewē Bo. drewē Du. drowen Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2217. In Ar. there is a bar also before the second on, put there to distinguish the numeral on from the preposition. 2217. wente Ad₁. went Bo. Ad₂. I. wenten M. Di. In Ad₁ 2220 precedes 2219, but the copyist has observed his mistake, and corrected it by writing a before the latter and b before the former line ; in Ad₂. I. the lines are right. 2220. was not found in any MS. (see Notes). hem] ham Ar. 2221. yhurt hurt M. Di. C. ywounded] wounded C. 2224. vale] valey L₁. Lb. E₂. lay] om Ar. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. (Ra.) Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. slayn(e) all the MSS. all the] all the hole Ba. T₂. E₂. 2227. han] had Ba. S. it han Bo. T₁. Du. Lf E₁. it hadde Ad₁. Ad₂. I. had it M. Di. 2228. the] om. M. Di. which Ad₁ whiche Bo. M. 2229. of] of this Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. C. E₂. of his Ba. for thi T₂. (of good Ra.) 2230. To] Vnto Ad₁. Ad₂. I. (Ra.) Ba. S. T₂. 2231. spedd with de underdotted Ar. 2232. Euerich] Éche M. Di. C. T₂. his lyf left] left his lyf L₂. (ther lif hathe left Ra.) for a] for Ap. to Ba. (Ra.) L₂. 2234. tellen telle L₁. C. P. L₂. tell hym S. he] howe he P. sured] assured M. Di. Ba. C. T. P. E₂. om. T₁. and om. T₁. 2236. opynly] oonly Lb. om. S. (playnly Ra.) 3 opynly may] openly ye may M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. C. T₂. P. E₂. 2237 Ageyn Ar. Bo. Ad₁. trouthe Ad₁. trouth Ar. Bo. 2238. Fy] Figh E₂. quarell Bo. quarells Ar. querilis Lb. querilis Ar. a quarell S. T₂. P. nat grounde vpon] grounded nat on Ad₁. Ad₂. I. (Ra.) Ba. S.

- with-outē which* / may be no victorie*.
 Therfor ech man / haue* this in memorye*, 2240 tude hath euere
in the fyn vic-
tory of falshede.
- That gret pouer / shortly to conclude,
 Plentē of good / nor mochē* multitude,
 Seleight or engyne / fors / or felonye,
 Arn to feble / to holden Chanpartye 2244
- Ageynēs* trouthē* / who that list take hede.
 For at the ende falshede may not spede
 Tendurē longe / ȝe shul fynde it thus.
 Record I take of worthy Tydeus, 2248
- which with his hand / thorgh trouthēs excellence,
 Fyfty knyghtēs / slogh in his dyffence,
 But on except / as I late* tolde,
 Sworn and assurēd with his honde vpholde, 2252
- The kyng tenformē / how they wern atteynt.
 And Tydeus, of bledyng wonder feynt,
 Maat and wery / and in gret distresse,
 And ouerleyd / of verray febleness; 2256
- But as he myght / hym-siluē tho sustene,
 He took his hors / stondyng on the grene,
 Worthēd vp / and forth he gan to ryde
 An esy pas / with his woundēs wyde. 2260
- And Sothly / ȝit in his opynyoun
 he was alway / afferēd of tresoun.
 But anguysshous / and ful of bysy payne
 He rode hym forth / til he did atteyne 2264
- Into the boundēs / of lygurgus lond,
 A worthy kyng / and manly of his hond.

Tideus, tho'
bleeding and
weary,

mounts his horse
and rides away.

[leaf 38]

Tideus rides into
the land of King
Lycurgus,

2239. which] woch Ar. whom G. victoyre (: memoyre 2240) Ar. 2240. ech] every Lb. haue Bo. M. Ad₁. ha Ar. 2242. moche Bo. M. Ad₁. moch Ar. 2243. Sleight Bo. and all, except Seleight Ar. E₁. fors or] force of Ba. (force eke or Ra.) 2245. Ageyns Ar. Bo. ageinst Ad₁. troupe Ad₁. trouth Ar. Bo. 2247. To endure Bo. M. Ad₁. longe Bo. M. Ad₁. 2250. slowe M. Ad₁. slewe Bo. 2251. late Bo. M. Ad₁. E₁. C. layt Ar. (as I have latly tolde Ra.) 2253. tenforme Ad₁. to enfourme Bo. to enforme M. 2254. wonder] was wonder Du. 2257. hym-silue Ar. G. Ap. hymselfe E₁. S. (Ra.) him-self Bo. and the rest. tho] to G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. S. so L₁. Di. hym-silue tho] tho hymself C. T₂. P. E₂. L₃. (he gan hym-selfe Ra.) 2258. Stondyng] (yat stode vppon Ra.). 2259. Worthed vp] worchid vp (sic) S. (And vpp he lyght Ra.) to] om. Ad₂. I. 2262. aferde Bo. Ad₁. 2263. anguysshous Bo. M. anguissous Ad₁.

And he ful paal / only for lak of blood,
 Tydeus saugh / wher / a castel stood, 226
 Strong and myghty / belt vpon a roche,
 Touard which / he faste gan approche,
 Conveyed thider / be clernesse of the ston,
 That be nyght ageyn the moonë* shoñ, 227
 On heghë* toures / with crestës marcyal.
 And Ioyneunt / almost to the wal
 was a gardyn / lityl out be syde,
 Into which / Tydeus gan ride, 228
 Of aventurë / be a gatë smal.
 And ther he fond / forto rekne al,
 A lusty herbere / vnto his devis,
 Soote and fressh / lich a paradys, 229
 Verray heuently / of inspeccioun.
 And first of al / he alyghte down,
 The goodly placë / whan that he byheld,
 And fro his nek / he voyded hath his sheld, 230
 Drogh the brydyl / from his horses hede,
 let hym goon / and took no maner hede,
 Thorgh the gardyn / that enclosed was,
 Hym to pasture / on the grenë* gras. 231

sees a castle,

¶ How Tydeus,
al forwounded,
cam into ligur-
gus lond.rides into its
garden,

dismounts,

lets his horse
loose,

In Ad₁, 2268 precedes 2267, but the copyist has marked the lines with b and Ad₂, and I. are right. 2269. bilt Bo. M. Ad₁. bildid L₂. bylde P. (yby Ra.) Strong bilt and ighti Ad₁. Ad₂. I. vpon] in L₂. 2270. which] whor Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ba. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S (hom). (the whyche Ra. faste Ad₁. E₁. fast Bo. M. he faste gan] fast he gan M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. I. S. he gan fast L₂. 2271. Conveyed M. Ad₁. Conveid Bo. 2272. ageyn by M. Di. mone Bo. M. moone Ad₁. moon Ar. 2273. hegh Ar. hye Bo. his Lb. S. pe Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2274. Ioyneunt Ar. L₂. Ap. ioynyng Bo. and the rest, except Ioyned Ba. (adioynyng Ra.) 2275. lityl] a litil G. Di. I. 2277. which] whome Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. ye which S. (the whiche tho Ra.) gan] streight gan C. ride] to ride Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ba. E₁. S. P. E₂. 2278. rekene Bo. M. Ad₁. 2280. Soote Ar. Lb. Ba. S (Sotte). C. P. L₂. Ap. (Full soote Ra.) Swote T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Sweet Bo. E₁. I. lich a] lich to a Ad₁. lyke to Ad₂. I. (much lyke Ra.) (2281 and 2282 omit in Ra.) 2282. alyzt G. alighte M. Di. alight Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. C. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ap. lighte Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. P. lyghted E₁. doun] a-down Lb. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. 2284. he] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. S. C. P. voyded] avoidid Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. hath] had Bo. Di. thanne T₂. 2285. drowe Bo. Du. M. Ad₁. drev E₂. And drew E. Drawe E₁. (And gote Ra.) the] his Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. S. horses Ar. (Ra.) horsys Ap. hors Bo. and the rest. 2288. pasture Bo. M. Ad₁. 2288 and 2290. grene M. Ad₁. green Bo.

- And Tydeus / mor hevie than is led,
 Vpon the herbës / grenë,* whit, *and* red,
 As hym thoughte / that tyme for the best leaf 38, back]
 he leid hym doune / forto tak his rest, 2292 lies on the grass,
 Of werynessë / desirous to slepe,
 And non awayt / his body forto kepe ;
 And with dremës / grocchëd euer among,
 Ther he lay / til* the larkë song 2296 and dreams till the lark sings
 with notës newë / hegh vp in the ayr,*
 The gladë morowe / rody *and* right fayr,
 Phebus also, casting vp his bemes,
 The heghë* hyllës / gilte with his stremes, 2300 and the sun rises ;
 The syluer dewe / vpon the herbës rounde ;
 Ther Tydeus lay vpon the ground,
 At the vprist / of the shenë svnne,
 And stoundëmele* / his grenë* woundës rvnne 2304 but his wounds bleed.
 Round about / that the soyl was* depeynt
 Of the grenë / with the redë meynt.
 And euery morowe / for hoolsomnesse of eyre*,
 Lygurgus doghter / makëd her repeyr, 2308 ¶ Hou Ligurgus doghter fond Tydeus sleping in the herber, al forwounded.
 Of custom ay / among the flourës newe
 In this gardyn / of many dyuerse hwe,
 Swich Ioyë haddë /, forto taken hede,
 On her stalkës / forto sen hem sprede, 2312 To this garden, daily comes Lycurgus's daughter.
 In the Allurës / walking to *and* fro.
 And whan she hadde a litil whilë* goo

2293. desirous] desiringe P. to] for to Ad₂. I. P. (Ra.) 2294. forto] to Ad₁.
 Ad₂. I. 2295. grocched Ar. Du. M. Ap. grucchid Bo. T₁. L₁. Lb. Di. Ba. C. T₂.
 gruchchid Ra (grutched by later hand). grutched E₁. gruggid L₂. grugged E₂.
 grughynge P. grucche S. om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2295 is found twice in Ra., first
 written by the later hand as the last line on the back side of the fourth new leaf (see
 2099), then as the first line of the following original leaf. 2296. Ther] grucching
 here Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Til] to Ar. G. 2297. newe] om. Bo. hayr Ar. G. 2300.
 hegh Ar. hye Bo. Ad₁. gilt Bo. gilded Ad₁. glistred Ad₂. I. 2303. shene Ad₁.
 sheen Bo. shene svnne] sune shene S. 2304. stoundemele T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di.
 Ra. C. T₂. P. stoundemell Ba. E₂. Ap. stoundmele Ar. Bo. L₁. Ad₁. E₁. L₂. in
 that while Ad₂. I. And swmdell his wondes ron grene S. grene M. Ad₁. gren
 Ar. green Bo. 2305. that] om. Lb. was] om. Ar. G. E₁. C. T₂. P. L₂. Ap.
 (E₂). 2306. Of] Was of E₂. with the] with Ra. Ba. C. meynt] y-meynt Ad₁.
 Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. P. The rubric of Ar. has Barurgus for Ligurgus. 2307. heyre
 Ar. G. 2308. makd Ar. G. C. T₂. Ap. made (maad) Bo. and the other MSS.,
 except did make E₂. 2314. while Bo. Ad₁. whil Ar.

	her-self allonē* / casting vp her sight,	
She sees a sleeping knight	She byheld / wher an armēd knyght lay to rest hym / on the herbēs colde ; And hym besydē / she gan ek byholde	231
his steed,	his myghty stedē / walkyng her <i>and</i> ther.	
and his blood. [leaf 39]	And she anon / fille in a maner fer, Speceally whan she saugh the blood Sprad al the grene / aboute ther she stood. ¶ But at the laste / she caught hardynesse, And wommanly / gan her forto dresse Toward this knyght, havyng a manere drede And gret doute lest that he were dede. And of her willē / sothly this was chief, That she thoughte forto mak a prief how that it stood / of this man, ful ofte.	232 233
She touches him gently	And forth she gooth / and touchēd hym ful softe, Ther as he lay / with her hondes smale. And with a facē dedly / bleykt, <i>and</i> pale, lich as a man adawēd / in a swogh,	234
He starts up,	Vp he stert / and his swert he drogh, Nat fully out / but put it vp ageyn Anon as he hath the lady seyn, Beseching hir / only of her grace, To han pitē / vpon his trespase,	235
and begs her to pity him.	And rewe on hym of her wommanhede. For of affray / he was falle in drede lest he hadde / assaylēd ben of newe Of the thebans / preuēd ful vntrewe ;	236

2315. allone Bo. allon Ar. 2322. al] on Ad₁. Ad₂. I. C. T₂. P. E₂. ther] wh
M. Di. L₂. she] he L₁. om. P. 2324. gan] she gan Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba.
her] om. Ba. forto] to S. 2328. forto] to Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. prief
E₂. prief Bo. M. Ad₁. prief L₂. priefe Lb. Ba. ; Ar. has aprief. 2329.
with G. 2331. Ther] Wher C. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ap. And per Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba.
2333. as] om. Lb. Ra. Ba. E₁. adawed in] dawed in E₁. adawed of Lb. tl
dawed of Ad₁. that dawith of Ad₂. I. 2334. Vp he stert] He vpsterte C.
E₂. second he] om. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. drogh] out dro
Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2335. but] om. Bo. 2340. of] om. Ra. Ba. fallen G. M. Di.
T₂. Ba. falle Ar. Bo. and the rest. in a drede Ar. with a underdotted. 23
had] om. M. Di. he hadde assayled ben] he hadde be assailed Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S.
assayled he hadd be Ba. he assayled hadde be C. of] om. L₂. 2342. prev
M. proued Bo. Ad₁. proude and I.

For dred of which he was so rekküles,
Ful humblely / hym 3elding^t to the pes, 2344
Tryst^t in hym-silf / he passëd hadde his boundes.
And whan that^t she saugh his mortal woundes,
She haddë routh / of verrey gentyllesse
Of his desese / and of his distresse, 2348
And bad he shulde / no-thing^t be dismayd,
Nor in herte sorouful nor affray^t,
Disconfort^t hym in no maner thing^t.
“For I,” quod she / “am doghter to the kyng^t, 2352
Callyd lygurge / which gretly me delyte
Euery morowe / this gardyn to visyte ;
It is to me so passingly disport.”
“Wherfor,” quod she / “beth of good comfort^t ; 2356
For no wight her / touchyng^t 3our^t viage,
Shal hynder 3ou / nor do 3ow no damage.
And 3if 3e list^t / of al 3our auenture
The pleynë* trouth / vnto me discure, 2360
I wil in soth^t / do my bysynesse
To reforme / 3oure greuous hevynesse
with al my myght^t / and hool my dylygence ;
That I hope of 3oure gret offence 2364
3e shal han helpe in 3our^t aduersitè.
And, as ferforth / as it^t lith in me,

She bids him not
fear ;

[leaf 39, back]

she is the King's
daughter ;

¶ How wom-
manly the lady
acquyt hir to
Tydeus in his
desese.
no one shall hurt
him ;

she will see him
righted.

2343. recheles M. Ad₁. rechles Bo. 2344. humblely Ar. Ap. humbely
Ad₁. Di. T₂. humbly Bo. and the rest. hym 3elding Ar. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. T₂. E₂. Ap.
yeldyng him Bo. Du. G. and the rest. the] om. Ba. 2346. that] om. Du.
2348. and of] and Ad₁. Ad₂. I. C. E₂. and for L₁. distresse] grete distresse Lb.
2349. shulde Bo. Ad₁. shold M. no thing be Ar. G. Du. L₁. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. E₁. S.
L₂. Ap. be no jing Bo. T₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₂. I. T₂. P. E₂. not be nothing C.
dismayd] disamayd Ad₂. 2350. Nor. nor] Nor. ne Bo. T₁. M. Di. Ba. Nor.
noth^r C. Ne. nor Lb. Ne. ne L₁. herte Ad₁. hert Bo. sorouful] ferful Ad₁.
Ad₂. I. 2353. which Ar. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. þat Bo. and the rest. 2354.
morowe] mornyng Lb. Ba. morwnyng Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. this] the Ra. Ba. to]
forto Ad₁. 2355. so] om. P. passingly] passyng L₁. Ad₂. I. P. 2356. beth]
byth E₁. C. be S. be ye M. Di. 2358. hynder] nat hynder Ra. Ba. nor] ne
Bo. T₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. 3ow no] om. Ra. Ba. no] om. G. 2360.
pleyne L₁. Ra. Ad₂. I. pleyn Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. vnto Ar. G. C. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ap.
to Bo. and the rest. 2362. refourme Bo. reforme M. Ad₁. 2363. hool my
Ar. G. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. myn hool Bo. and the rest (my whole S.).
2365. shal Ar. Bo. Ra. E₁. shul M. Ad₁. C. aduersite] gret aduersite Ad₁.
Ad₂. I.

Trusteth right wel / 3e shul no fautē fynde."

Tideus trusts
her.

And whan he saugh / that she was so* kynde, 23

So wommanly / so goodly, *and* benygne

In al her poort / be many dyuers signe,

He vnto hir / be ordre wold not spare

Tideus tells
Lycurgus's
daughter
all his story.

his auenturis / fully to declare, 23

In Thebës first touching his massage,

And at* the hil / of the woodē* Rage,

Of his woundës / and his hurtës sore

(It were but veyn / to reherce it mor) 23

¶ Hou Tydeus
was refresshed in
the castel of the
lady.

By and by he told her euery del,

The which in soth / she likēd neuere a del,

But haddē routh and compassioun

Of his meschief / wroght be fals tresoun : 23

[leaf 40]

Byddyng in hast / that he shuld hir swe,

And wommanly / as her thoghte dwe,

She takes him
to a soft bed,

To a chambre / she ladde hym vp alofte,

Ful wel beseyn / ther-in a bed right softe 23

Richely abouten apparayled

With cloth of gold / al the floor yrayled

Of the samē / both in length *and* brede.

And first this lady / of her wommanhede, 23

hir wymmen badde / as goodly as they kan,

To be attendaunt on this wounded man.

unarms him,

And whan he was vnarmēd to his sherte,

2367. shul Ar. M. Ad₁. shal Bo. 2368. that] *om.* G. she] *om.* Du. so
 Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. *om.* Ar. Bo. *and all the rest.* that he was kynde
 2369. so goodly] goodly Lb. benygne] so benigne Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. A.
 Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. 2370. many] many a Du. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2371. wold]
 Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2374. atte the hil G. L₂. at hill Ba. E₂. al the hil Ar. Bo. *and*
all the rest, except þe hille L₁. all þe wholl S. (*see Notes*). wode Bo. M. wood Ar. A.
 of the woode] of all þe woode L₁. of the woodie E₂. of the worthy P. and
 wood Ad₂. I. 2375. and his] and of his Bo. and E₁. 2379. hadde M. d
 Bo. Di. Ad₁. routh M. routh Bo. Ad₁. 2381. Shewe Lb (: dewe). 23
 Ful wel beseyn] *om.* Ad₂. I. ther-in] where inne Ad₂. I. bed] bed was Ad₂.
 right] ful Ra. S. 2385. abouten] aboute Bo. L₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. L₂.
 Richely aboute aparaylid for the nones P. (*the last three words added with paler k*
by later hand). 2386. of gold] *om.* C. yrayled Ar. G. C. T₂. E₂. Ap. L₂ (erayl).
 arayed Bo. T₁. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ra. S. E₁ (I-rayed). Du (raied). Ba (auarrayh).
 trayled Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2386 omitted in P; the later hand has written in
 margin: With Curret & hangynge Of Arras golde and stonys. 2389. ty
 Ar. G. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. she Bo. *and all the rest.* 2391. whan] *om.* Bo

She madë first ^t wassh his woundës smerte,	2392	washes and dresses his wounds,
And serche hem wel / with dyuers instrumentes,		
And madë* fette / sondry oynëmentes,		
And leches ek / the beste she koude fynde,		
Ful craftely to staunche hem / <i>and</i> to bynde.	2396	
And euery thing ^t / that may do hym ease		
Taswage his peyn / or his woo tapese,		
Was in the courte / and in* the Castel sought,		
And by her byddyng / to his chambre brought.	2400	
And for his sakë / she hath after sent		
For swich deyntees / as wern conuenyent,		gives him dainties,
Moost nutrytyf / be phisikës lore,		
hem that wern syk / or wounded / to restore,	2404	
Makyng her wymmen / ek to taken kep		and bids her women watch him.
And wayt ^t on hym / anyghtës whan he slep,		
And be wel war / that no thing ^t asterte		
That was or myght ^t be / lusty to his herte.	2408	
¶ And with al this / she preiëd hym abyde		Tideus, tho askt to stop at Lycurgus's castle,
Fil he were strong ^t / <i>and</i> myghty forto ride,		[leaf 40, back]
In the castel to pley hym / <i>and</i> disporte,		
And at leysere / hom ageyn resorte	2412	
whan he myght ^t bywelde hym at his large.		
But ^t al for nought ^t / : he wil hom to Arge,		will go home to Argos.
Toke his lyeve on the nexte day,		
With-out ^t abood / to hast ^t hym on his way,	2416	
owly thonkyng ^t / vnto her goodnesse		

2392. wassh Bo. wasshe M. Ad₁. In Ar. a pause-bar after wassh. 2394. made Bo. M. Ad₁. mad Ar. fette M. Ad₁. fett Bo. 2395. leches] leche T₂. he] þat she Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C. 2396. [ful] And ful Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. to staunche hem] to staunchen hem Ad₁. Ad₂. E₁. did hem staunch Ra. Ba. to bynde] binde Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 2396 omitted in P., but And caused them his woundes to bynde written in the margin by later hand. 2398. Taswage Ar. To aswage Di. L₂. to swage Bo. and the rest. apese Ar. Bo. and all, except to apese S. P. L₂. to pese Ap. L₁. To swage his wo & eyne to pease L₁. 2399. courte] contre Ad₂. I. in the Castel] in om. Ar. Ba. Ap. 2404. hem] to hem Ad₁. Ad₂. I. wern Ar. were Bo. and the rest. to restore] sore T₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2409. preiëd Ar. praid Bo. M. Ra. praid Ad₁. [byde] to abide Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. 2413. bywelde] biwilde Di. S. beweldy Lb. welde Ba. at his] to his Bo. at Lb. 2415. nexte Ad₁. nexte Di. next Bo. 2417. thonkyng] towchyng T₂. vnto] to P. hir of Ad₂. I. goodnesse] greet goodnesse M. Di. goodlynesse T₂. worthynesse Ro.

Of her fredam / and bountëvous largesse,
 So wommanly that hir list taken* hede
 Hym to refressh in his grete nede, 242
 Beheestyng hir / with al his fullë* myght,
 He woldë* be hir *seruaunt* / and hir knyght,
 Why! he leueth, of what she wold hym charge.

¶ Hou Tydeus
 reseyred hym to
 Arge al for-
 woundyd.

And forth he rood / til he cam to Arge 243

In ful gret hast / and woldë nowher dwelle.
 But what shuld I rehercen owther telle
 Of his repeer / the coostës or the pleyns,
 The craggy Roches / or the hegh mounteyns, 244

Or al the maner / of his hoom-comyng,
 Of the metyng / or* the welcomyng,
 Nor the Ioyë / that Adrastus made,

His wife clasps Nor how his sustre / and his wif were glade? 245

Nor how that they /, wherto* shuld I write,

him in her arms. Enbracëd hym / in her Armës white,
 Nor the gadryng / about hym / and the pres

Polynieces Nor of the sorowe / that Polymytës 246

grieves to see
 him wounded.

Mad in hym-silf / to sen hym so forwounded,*
 his greuouse hurtes / his soorys / ek vnsounded,
 His dedly look / and his facë pale?

(Of alle this / to gynne a newë tale 247

[leaf 41]

It were in soth / a maner ydylnesse)

2418. and] and of hir Bo. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. E₁. S. and her T₁. L₁. larges largenes L₁. and largenese (*sic*) T₂. 2419. tak Ar. Ad₁. take G. L₁. and rest, except to take Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. (*cp.* 2311). 2420. refressh (refresshe) and all. 2421. Beheestyng Ar. Ra. Behestyng Bo. Ba. Ap. By-hestyng Bihotyng T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. E₁. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. Be-hetyng L₁. Besechyng L₂. Ro. ful (full) Ar. G. Bo. and all, except hol Ad₁. hoole Ad₂. 2422 and 2423. wolde Bo. M. Ad₁. wold Ar. wyl G. and hir] and Ra. knygtrew knyght M. Di. Ba. C. T₂. P. E₂. 2426. what] wherto M. Di. owther Ar. I. other M. Ad₁. or more Ad₂. I. 2427. his] bis Bo. or] oper Ad₁. 2430. nor Ar. G. C. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. or the] or of þe Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. L₂. 2431. Nor] For Di. Ba. Ne L₁. Lb. 2432. Nor] Ne Lb. P. and] ne Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. E₁. T₂. P. nor Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. C. L₂. Ra. Ba. E₂. were] was T₂. P. 2433. Wherto] Wherfor Ar. write] it write I. In Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. the second halves of 2433 and 2434 are transposed, that 2434 being lacked on to the former half of 2433 and vice versa. 2435. Nor] Lb. P. hym] om. Bo. and] nor Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. C. T₂. L₂. ne E₁. P. or E₂. Ra. Ba. 2436. of] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. sorowe] g sorwe C. 2437. so] om. S. P. E₂. L₂. forwounded] soor wounded Ar. G. I. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. P. E₂. sor forwoundid L₂.

or how hym-silf in ordre did expresse
 rst how that he in Thebës hath hym born,
 or how the kyng / falsly was forsworn, 2444
 or of the awayt / nor tresoun that he sette,
 han fyfty knyghtës / on the way hym mette,
 s he han herd / al the manere howe,
 ith-oute which / my tale is long ynowe. 2448
 But Adrastus / madë* men to seche
 every Coost / for many diuerse leche, Adrastus gets
doctors
 o come in hast / and make no taryng,
 pon a peyne / be biddyng of the kyng, 2452
 o don her craft / that he wer recured
 nd of his force / in euery part assured.
 nd they echon / so her konnyng shewe
 at, in space / of a daiës fewe, 2456 who soon cure
Tideus,
 e was al hool / maad of his siknesse.
 o was ther Ioye : *and* tho was ther gladnesse to every one's
delight.
 orgh-out the courte / *and* thorgh-out al the toun.
 r euery man / hath swich opynyoun 2460
 Tydeus / for his gentyllesse,
 r his manhood and his lowlynesse,
 at he was holde / the moste famous knyght
 d best byloued / in euery mannys sight 2464
 orgh-oute grece / in euery Region.
 But now most I / make a digressioun,
 tellë shortly / as in Sentement,
 thilke knyght / that Tydeus hath sent 2468 But I must
now turn to
 o Thebës / only to declare
 e grete meschief / *and* the euel fare

2444. Nor] And P. was] is Ad₁. om. Ad₂. I. 2445. the awayt Ar. Bo. M.
 waite C. be waite Di. await (om. the) Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2449. made Bo. Ad₁.
 and Ar. 2455. konnyng] konnynges Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. E₁. 2456.
 [ee] the space C. a daiës fewe] dayes fewe T₁. L₁. Lb. Ad₁ (daies a fewe). Ad₂.
 Ba. E₁. C. P. L₂. Ro. 2457. al hool] alhool Ar. hole T₁. 2458. and Ar.
 C. T₂. P. E₂. Ap. om. Bo. and the rest. ther. ther] her. her. L₂. Ro.
 2459. and thorgh-out] and thorgh M. Ad₁. 2462. his manhood] manhod of
 Ad₁. Ad₂. I. and his] and Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2463. moost Bo. most M. Ad₁.
 e Du. Di. I. 2466. Ar. has a second pause-bar after make. digressioun]
 gressioun I. 2468. thilke Ad₁. thilke Bo. 2470. gret Ad₁. grete Bo.
 21 in Ar. begins with In w Vnto, the first two underdotted.

[leaf 41, back]	Vnto the kyng ^t / how it is befallē,	
	The opyn trowth / of his knyghtēs alle,	24
Eteocles, on hearing that his 50 knights were slain,	how Tideus hath slayn hem euerychoñ, That, sauf hym-silf / ther eskapēd noñ :	
	which was reserued / from sheding* of his blood,	
	The kyng ^t to tellē pleyntly how it stood.	24
	And whan he hadde rehersēd euery poynt,	
is nearly mad with rage.	Ethiocrates stood / in such disioynt ^t	
	Of hatful Irē that he wex nye wood.	
Eteocles	And in his tene / and his fellē mood,	24
	Of cruel malys / to the knyght he spak,	
says his knights, were cowards,	And feily seidē* that it was for lak	
	Only of manhood / thorgh her cowardys,	
¶ How Ethiocrates was asstonyed whan he herd pe deth of his knyghtes.	That thei wern slayn / in so mortal wyse.	24
	“ And hangēd be he / highē* by the nekke	
	That of 3our deth / or of 3our slaughter Rekke,	
	Or 3ou compleyn / outhē* on or aH,	
	Of the meschief / that is 3owe befaH.	28
	I do no force / that non of 3ou asterte.	
	But fye vpon 3our falsē* couard herte,	
to let one man kill 50 of em.	That on knyght hath, thorgh his hegh renoun,	
	Brought 3ow aH into* confusioun,	22
	Ful gracēles / and ful vnhappy to.”	
The survivor answers that	“ Nay,” quod this knyght, “ it is no-thing* so.	

2475. which Ar. G. C. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. That Bo. and the rest. from (p)]
for Di. Ba. sheding] the sheding Ar. G. 2478. stood] stood thanne
Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 2479. that] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₂. wex Ar. G. Lb. Di. A₁.
Ra. Ba. E₂. Ro. waxe Bo. M. Du. Ad₁. E₁. S. C. T₂. L₂. wyxe Ap. waxte L₁.
T₁. nye] nere Ba. L₂. Ap. 2480. and] and in L₁. Lb. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra.
E₁. S. E₂. L₂. Ro. felle Ar. Bo. M. fel Ad₁. ful Ra. felle] om. S.
seide Ad₁. Bo. seid Ar. 2485—2672 lost in T₂. 2485. be he] he be
highē E₂. hye Bo. M. Ad₁. high Ar. highē] om. S. hanged] y-honged
Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 2486. of 3our deth] your deth Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2487. outhr
other M. Di. othre Du. oythe Ar. 2488. is 3owe] is on you M. Di. now
befall] fall Lb. 2489. that] though Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. though pat Ad₁. as
astart (: hert) S. 2490—2580 lost in Ba. 2490. fals coward Ar. M.
fals cowarde Bo. 2491. That] Tha Ar. on] of o with of underdotted Ad₁.
oo Ad₂. I. hath] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. I. S.
L₂. Ro. hegh] om. Ra. E₂. renoun] resoun Ra. 2492. Brought] hath brought
Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. into T₁. Du. L₁. Ad₁.
Ra. S. in Ar. G. E₁. P. E₂. Ap. to Bo. Lb. M. Di. I. L₂. Ro. vnto C.
nothing] not Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S.

It is thyn vnhappy / pleynty, *and* not oures,
 That so many worthy werreoures, 2496 Eteocles him-
 Which al her lif / neuer haddē shame,
 Except this quarel / taken in thy name,
 That grounded was / and rooted on falssenesse :
 This was cause / in verray sikernesse, 2500 was the cause of
 Of our vnhappy / I woot wel, *and* non other, their mishap :
 And the vntrouthē* / don vnto thy brother, (leaf 42)
 And that thou were / so opynly forsworn :
 A parcel causē why that we wer lorn 2504
 was fals brekyng^t / of thyn assurēd oth."
 And tho the kyng^t / almost^t mad for wroth,
 In purpoos was forto slee this knyght,
 Only for he seidē to hym right, 2508
 The which allas / both at eue *and* morowe,
 Supprisēd was / with a dedly sorowe, This knight,
 Renewēd ay, in his remembraunce, in a fit of sorrow
 With the pitous / and vnhappy chaunce 2512 and despair,
 Of the meschief / and mysaventure,
 Touching^t the deth / and disconfiture
 Of his feeres / and of hym-silf also :
 That the shamfast^t / in-portable wo 2516
 So frat^t on hym / with such a mortal stryf
 That he was very / of his ownē lif ;
 Hent^t a sword^t / and a-sidē sterte, drives a sword
 And rove hym-silf euen to the herte, 2520 into his own
 heart.

2495. pleynty] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. pleynty and] and pleynty Ra. 2497. had
 Bo. 2499. on] in Bo. L₁. E₁. L₂. Ap. and rooted on] vpon Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2500.
 cause] the cause Du. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. sikernesse] sewernesse S. sothnesse C.
 P. E₂. 2502. vntrouth Ar. Bo. 2504. A] And Lb. C. P. E₂. Ro. Ap. parcel]
 percell E₁. E₂. that] *om.* M. Di. lorn] forlorn Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁.
 Ra. E₁. S. E₂. Ap. 2508. to Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. vnto M. and the rest.
 2509. in Ar. above which is written i. miles in smaller letters. both] *om.* M. Di.
 2512. pitous] poyntes G. 2513. and] and the G. I. 2514. and] and the
 Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. E₁. S. P. of the I. 2515. his] alle his Ad₁.
 Ad₂. I. feeres Ar. Bo. feers M. Ad₁. felowes S. second of *om.* S. Ro. silf]
om. Du. Ad₂. 2516. importable Bo. M. Ad₁. 2517. So] *om.* Ro. frat]
 fret L₁. M. Di. S. Sat Ro. was E₂. that L₂. on] *om.* M. Di. Ad₂. hym] *om.*
 Ad₂. 2519. Hent] He hent G. L₁. Ra. C. Hent he hath E₂. Thurgh the
 whiche he hent P. Toke he S. a-side] a-sid Ad₁. asiden L₁. *om.* P. sterte]
 a-sterre Di. a-start S. 2520. roue Bo. M. rof Ad₁. And the poeple nad be
 ta ryven thoruh (therewith I.) his herte Ad₂. I.

	¶ The kyng ^t hym-silf / beyng ^t tho present ^t ; That ^t the rumour / and the noys is went ^t Thorgh-outē Thebēs / of * the woodē * rage,	
The friends of the dead knights	Be swich as werē * / Ioynēd by lynage To the knyghtēs / slayē * at ^t the hille ; That ^t aH atonys / of oon herte <i>and</i> wille,	2524
want to take vengeance on Eteocles,	They wold ^t han rysē / thorgh-out ^t the Citē, Vpon the kyng ^t / avengēd forto be, Which of her deth / was chief ^t occasioun.	2528
but the lords	But ^t the barouns / and lordēs of the toun	
[leaf 42, back]	Ful busy wern / this Rumour to dysesse,	
quiet them.	Of high prudence / to stynten and appese, In quyetē / euery thyng ^t to sette.	2535
The corpses	And after that ^t the bodyes hom they fette Of the knyghtēs / lik as ȝe han herde, Aforȝ yslawē / with the blodȝ swerde	2536
	Of Tydeus / ful sharpē whet ^t and grounde. And in the felde / so as they hem founde, Only of loue / and affeccioun,	
are brought to Thebes,	Solempnely * they broght ^t hem into toun. And, lik the maner / of her rytis olde,	2540
burnt,	They weren first ^t brent ^t / into Asshes colde,	
and buried.	Euerich buryed / lich to his degrē.	

2521. beyng Ar. beyng tho] tho being Ad₁. so beyng Ad₂. I. 2522. The
om. L₁. rumour] Iniurye I. is] om. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. it L₁. Ra. 2523. Thorgh
oute] Thorgh C. P. E₂. Thorough-oute all E₁. of] and Ar. G. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra
E₁. S. L₂. Ro. Ap. wode Bo. M. Ad₁. wood Ar. 2524. wern Ar. Bo. M. Ad
2525. slayen] slayn(e) *all the MSS.* 2527. ryse Ar. G. Ap. C. rysen Bo. T₁. M.
Ad₁. E₁. resen Ra. arisen E₂. thorgh-out] thorough M. Di. P. thorough-oute a
E₁. 2528. forto] to haue Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2530. lordes] þe lordes Bo. T₁. Lb. M.
I. E₁. S. C. 2531. besy Bo. M. Ad₁. discese Bo. M. Ad₁. 2534. the bodye
hom they] home þe bodies they M. Di. 2535. herde] redde Ad₂. I. 2536
yslawe Ar. G. Bo. Du. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ap. eslaw L₂. slawe T₁. M. D
slayn C. yslayne P. E₂. 2537. sharpe Ar. Du. Lb. P. sharp Bo. G. T₁. M.
Ad₁. Ra. C. E₂. I₂. Ro. whet] whittid Ra. ; S has Iwhett full sharp and ground
2538. so] om. Lb. Ad₂. I. 2539. and] and of L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. C.
P. E₂. L₂. 2540. Solempnely Lb. Di. Ad₁. I. Ra. E₁. E₂. L₂. Ap. solemnely Ad
solempnly G. Bo. Du. M. L₁ (solempnye). Solemply Ar. T₁. S. C. P. Ro. into] in
þe Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. S. C. L₂. to the Lb. Ad₂. I. E₁. P. E₂. 254
lik] lik to Ad₁. Ad₂. I. her] the M. Di. C. L₂. rytes M. rightes Bo. right L
2542. were Bo. M. Ad₁. 2543. Euerich] And euerich Ad₁. Ad₂. I. And eel
one E₂. Euery man Lb. buryed] I-buried E₁. E₂.

- | | | |
|--|------|------------------|
| Lo her kalendys / of aduersité, | 2544 | Ruin is to fall |
| Sorowe vpon sorowe / and destruccioun, | | on king and |
| First of the kyng / and aft the Regyoun ; | | realm, |
| For lak oonly / lik as I 3ow tolde, | | |
| That biheestës / trewly wern not holde : | 2548 | as troth was not |
| þe Firste grounde / and Roote of this Ruyne, | | kept. |
| As the story / shal clerly determyne, | | |
| And my tale / her-after shal 3ow lere, | | |
| 3if that 3ow list / the remenaunt for to here. | 2552 | |

¶ Explicit Secunda pars

Joh Lydgate

¶ Incipit pars Tercia

2544. kalendys] þe kalendes Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. C. P. E₂.
 is þe kalendes L₁. 2546. and] and after Lb. all] *om.* Bo. of S. Ro. the] his
 L₁. 2548. were Bo. M. Ad₁. 2549. þe] *om.* Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁.
 Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. ; *in* Ar. þe *is written before the line.* first Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra.
 2552. that] *om.* Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. C.

[leaf 43]

¶ Tercia Pars.

Why, Mars,

O Cruel Mars / ful of malencolye, 255.
 And of thy kynde hoot / combust, and drye,
 (As the sperkles* / shewen fro so ferre,
 By the stremes / of þⁱ redē sterre, 256

In thy spere / as it^t aboute goth)were you so
wroth with men
of Thebes,

what^t was causē / that^t thou were so wroth
 with hem of Thebēs? / thorgh whoos feruent^t Ire

whose city was

The Citē brent^t and was sette a-fyre, 256

As bookēs oldē / wel rehercē konne,

burnt thru hate,

Of Cruel hatē / rooted and begynne,

And engendred /, the story maketh mynde,

Oonly of blood / corrupt^t and vnkynde, 256from Original
Sin?

Bynfeccioun / callēd Orygynal,

Causyng^t a strif / dredful and mortal,

Of which the meschief / thorgh al greeē Ran.

King Adrastus
resolves to con-
quer Thebes.And kyng Adrastus / alderfirst^t began, 256which hath hym cast^t / a conquest^t for to make

vpon Thebēs / for polymytēs sake,

In knyghtly wisē / ther to preve his myght^t,Of ful entent^t / to recure his right^t. 257He calls a
parliamentAnd first^t of al he sette a parlement^t,

2554. thy] *om.* Bo. G. C. þe L₁. 2555. spercles Bo. T₁. Du. E₁. S. sparkle
 M. Ad₁. and the rest, except sperkes Ar. G. I. fro so ferre] from the fire Ra
 2556. þi Ar. G. thy L₂. Ro. Ap. the Bo. and the rest. 2557. thy] þe L₁. Ad
 I. Ra. L₂. 2558. cause] þe cause Di. L₂. Ro. that] *om.* Ra. P. L₂. Ro. 2560.
 The] Te Ar. brent and was] was brent and Ad₁. Ad₂. I. brent was and Lb. E
 a-fyre] on fyre Du. L₁. Lb. Ra. E₂. L₂. 2565. Bynfeccioun] By enfeccion Du
 Bo (enfencioun). M. T₁. Ad₁. 2569. Which] That Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. D
 Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. hath] *om.* L₁. forto] to M. Di. 2571. his] her Ad
 Ad₂. I. ther S. 2572. recure] rekouere Du.

- And hath his *lettres* / *and* massagerës sent
 Thorgh-outë Grece / to many sondry kyngges, of kings,
 hem to enhast / and makë no lettyngges. 2576
 And rounde about /, as maad is mencionn,
 he sent also / to many Regyoun
 For Pryncës / Dukës / lordys, and barouins, dukes, lords, etc.
 To taken vp / in Citees and in touns, 2580
 And chesen out / the moste liklyest,
 And swich as werën* / preüed for the best
 As of manhode / and sende* hem vp echon, [leaf 43, back]
 And in her honde / receyve her pay anon, 2584 All are to go
 with Adrastus to Thebës forto ryde. to Thebes with
 Adrastus.
 And tho lordës / that with hym abyde ¶ The grete pur-
 In houshold stillë / han her levë take, ueaunce of kyng
 To ryden hom / her retenue to make 2588 The court-lords
 In ther contrees / as they wern of degré, go home for
 To stuffen hem / and taken vp meynë
 And make hem stronge / with knyghtës *and* squyers, men and arms,
 with sperës / bowës / and with ablasters, 2592
 In al the hast possible / that they may,
 And to retourne / in their best aray,
 At termë sette, ful manly to be seyn, to muster soon

2575. Thorgh-outë] Thorough Bo. M. Di. C. P. E₂. Grece] alle Grece Ad₂. I. to] vnto Ad₁. Ad₂. I. many] many a Ra. kyngges] kyng²Ra. kyngges in Ar. was first written kynggs, then e put above the line between g and s, with the usual mark of insertion (two converging strokes) under the line. 2578. to] into Ad₁. Ad₂. I. many Ar. Bo. T₁. M. E₁. Ro. Ap. many a Du. L₁. Di. and the rest. 2581. chesen Ar. G. Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. E₁. chese Di. S. L₂. Ro. to chesen C. E₂. to chese P. the] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. most Ar. G. M. Ad₁. moost Bo. moste Du. Ra. Ba. liklyest] semblyeste Ro. 2582. swieh] which G. weren T₁. Lb. I. wern Ar. G. Du. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. weryn Ra. were Bo. and the rest. preued] proued Bo. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. C. 2583. As] And Ad₁. Ad₂. I. sende E₁. S. C. P. E₂. send Ad₂. I. savde Ar (seems to be altered from saide). sande Bo. Du. G. sonde Di. soude T₁. M. sovde Lb. sowde L₂. Ap. sowede Ro. sonded Ad₁. sowdid Ra. Ba. wage I₁. hem] om. Ad₂. I. 2586. And] And how L₁. tho Ar. G. C. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. be Bo. and the rest. 2589. ther Ar. Ro. þeir Bo. ther T₁. Du. Ba. E₁. L₂. Ap. the Ra. P. her M. and the rest. 2590. stuffen] sustene C. P. E₂. and] and to Ra. Ba. S. C. to L₁. M. Di. E₁. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. taken Ar. Ad₂. I. Ap. make S. take Bo. and the rest. meyne] money Ba. 2592. second with] om. L₁. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. C. P. E₂. ablasters Ar. Bo. arblasters Ad₁. Ra. Ro. alblastys Ap. arblasteres Lb. Ad₂. Ba. arblastres E₁. S. arwblasters M. arowblasters C. Ar. has a bar also between with and speres. 2594. to] om. Di. Ba. retourne Ar. Bo. and all. their Ar. Ba. S. L₂. Ap. Ro (ther). her Bo. and the rest. 2595. At] At the Lb.

at Argos.	To-forn Argë / mostren in a pleyn.	2596
The kings who come are Pro- tonolope,	¶ And as I rede / ful worthy of degre Thider cam first / protonolopë, The which was, be recorde of wryting, Of Archada / sonë to the kyngt.	2600
Cilmythenes,	¶ And ful prudent founde in werre <i>and</i> pees Ther came also / the kyngt Cylmythenës.	
Ipomedon,	¶ And as I fynde / ful famous of renoun Thyder cam ek / the kyngt ypemedoun.	2604
	¶ And passingt aß / of knyghthode <i>and</i> of name, And excelleng / by worthynesse of fame,	
Capaneus,	The noble kyng / callyd Campaneus, kam ek to Argë / the story telleth vs, Proued ful wel / and haddë ryden ferre.	2608
Meleager, etc.	¶ And thider kam the kyngt Melleager, ¶ Kyng Genor ek / that helde his Royal sete, Myn Autour seiþ / in the lond of Crete ;	2612
[leaf 44]	¶ Kyngt Laëris <i>and</i> the kyngt Pyrrus *,	
¶ The kyngges <i>and</i> princes that cam with Adrastus.	And ek the kyngt / callëd Tortolanus. And renomèd in many regyoun	

2596. mostren Ar. Du. Ad₁. moostre M. moustren E₁. mustren T₁. mustre Ra. monstren Bo. mostren] to mvster L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. P. L₂. Ro. in] on Ra. Ba. P. L₂. Ro. a] þe L₂. Ro. 2598. protonolope] Prothonolope Bo. Lb. M. Ad₁. C. Äp. Prothonolphe L₁. partonolope P. protholonope I. Protholope Du. drothonolope S. 2599. whiche Bo. M. which Ar. Ad₁. 2600. Archada Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Arehadye M. Ad₁. Archedie L₂. Arehade Ra. E₂. to] vnto Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. C. P. E₂. 2602. Cylmythenes Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. Cylmythenes Ro. Sylmythenes L₂. Clymythines L₁. Cilmychenes C. Äp. Gilmichenes E₂. P. Cilmyntees Lb. Cylmytheus G. Thilmythenes Ra. Thillmethenes Ba. 2604. ypemedoun Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. Ypomedoun Lb. M. C. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Äp. Ipomedoun Di. Epymedon Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. Epimidoun L₁. Opimodoun Ra. Opymodoun Ba. of Epemedoun I. 2607. Campaneus] Capaneus Ad₁. of Capaneus Ad₂. I. Camphaneus Ra. 2608. vs] þus G. C. 2609. Proued Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. Preued Äp. Provyn L₂. Provided L₁. and] *om.* M. had Bo. M. Ad₁. hadde] hath T₁. and hadde ryden ferre] in many a degre Ra. in many agree Ba. 2610. And] *om.* Ra. Ba. kam] come eke M. Di. Ra. Ba. C. Melleager] Melliager Lb. Melleagerre Du. Melliacher P. Melergerr L₂. Melliagre Ra. Melliagree Ba. 2611. Genor] tenor Ra. Ba. Gover L₂. Ro. sete] Cite Ra. Ba. se C. E₂. 2612. seiþ] telleth Lb. Crete] grete T₁. Ra. Ba. gree P. E₂. 2613. Laeris Ar. G. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. E₁. L₂. Layerys Bo. Layeres Ro. laerus Ra. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. Laierus Ba. layers Äp. loeris C. E₂. loers P. laeris Lb. Pyrrus] of Pyrrus Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. pernonne P (*altered, on erasure*). 2614. callëd] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Tortolanus] Tortalanus Ad₂. Tortolonus E₂. tortolomus C. Tortolonyus Ro. Tortelows L₂. Tartalonne P. 2615. renomèd] wel renomèd M. Di. many] many a Du. L₁. Lb. P. E₂.

- Ther cam the kyng / ynamēd palemoun, 2616
 Oft assayed / and found a manly knyght,
 That with hym broght / in steel y-armēd* bright,
 Ful many worthy / out of his cuntrē.
 ¶ And Tideus / most knyghtly forto se, 2620 Tideus sends
 That manly man / that noble werreyour,
 As he that was / of worthynessē flour,
 Maister and myrour / by prouesse of his hond,
 hath sent also into the myghty lond 2624
 Of Calcedoyne / of which he was hayr, into Chalcedon
 That is a kyngdam / bothē* riche and fayr,
 Chargyng his counsale / and officers also,
 In al the hast / that it may be do, 2628
 To seken out / the beste werreyours, for its best
 Of famous knyghtes / and preuēd sawdyours, warriors
 Thorgh al the lond / and layde on hem this charge
 With-oute aboode / forto come to arge. 2632 to come to
 And they obeye / ful* lowly his biddyng,
 Enhastyng hem / and madē* no lettyng,
 But spedde hem fast / vppon her iournē.
 And fro Thebēs / the myghty strong Citē, 2636 From Thebes
 kam doune knyghtes / with many another man, come many
 Maugrē the kyng / to helpē* what they Can,
 Considred first / his falshed and tresoun,
 Ymeued only / of trouth and of resoun, 2640

2616. Ther] Thider L₁. Ro. ynamed] named Lb. C. I-callid L₁. ecallid L₂.
 called M. Di. Ad₂. I. E₂. Ro. palemoun] Palamon Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. L₂.
 Polemon E₁. Palemeoun G. 2617. assayed Ar. T₁. M. Ad₁. E₁. assaid Bo. G.
 Du. L₁. Ra. Ap. found] I-found E₁. 2618. y-armēd] armed Ar. Bo. and the
 rest. 2622. flour] be flour Du. I. 2624. into] to Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2625.
 Calcedoyne] Calcydoyne Du. Ad₁. Ad₂. Calcydoun L₂. Calcidonye I. Ro.
 Calydonye E₁. of which] wherof E₁. 2626. kyngdom Bo. M. Ad₁. bothe Bo.
 M. C. both Ar. Ra. om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2627. counseile Bo. 2628. haste Bo.
 hast M. Ad₁. 2629. seken] seke S. L₂. beste Lb. Ap. best Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁.
 worthy Di. werriours Bo. werriouris T₁. warreours Ra. 2630. preued Ar.
 T₁. Du. P. Ap. proude Ba. best L₂. Ro. proued Bo. and the rest. sawdyours
 Ar. E₁. Ap. soudeours Bo. M. Ad₁. 2631. al] om. C. this] be Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra.
 Ba. 2633. obeye Ar. Bo. and the rest, except obeyed L₁. Ra. Ba. P. obeyed Ad₁.
 Ad₂. I. ful] shal Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. E₁. S. all Ra. Ba. om. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂.
 I. lowly] om. M. Di. E₁. Ar. has a second pause-bar after shal. 2634. mad Ar.
 make M. Di. L₂. made Bo. and the rest. 2635. fast Bo. M. Ad₁. 2636.
 myghty strong] stronge and my3ty Di. 2638. helpe M. Ad₁. help Ar. Bo.

to help Poly-
neices,

[leaf 44, back]

as they are
bound by oath
to do.In Adrastus's
army is the
flower of the
Chivalry of
Greece.To tell you all
their new and
quaint armswould be a day's
work,

¶ Polymytës / as they were sworñ of þore,

To his Crounē / Iustly to restore :

And whan they weren at large out of the touñ,

Vnto Argē / they be descendid douñ,

2644

And, lik her oth* / and her assuraunce,

As they wern bounde / only of lygeaunce,

To hym they Cam / in ful lowly wise,

Redy to doñ / what hym list devise.

2648

And whan he hadde / her trouthe* ful conceyued,

He hath to gracē / goodly hem receyued,

Assignyng hem / her placē mydde the hoste,

Assembled ther / from many diuerse coste :

2652

That fynaly / in this companye

ygadred was / the floure of Chyvalrye

Ychosen out of al grekēs lond

The most knyghtly / and manful of her hond :

2656

That I trowē, sith the world began,

Ther was not seyn / so many manly man,

So wel horsēd / with sper and with sheld,

To-gydre assembled / sothly, in a feld.

2660

Ther men may see many straungē guyses

Of Armyng newe / and vncouth devyses,

Euery man / after his fantasye ;

That ȝif I shuld / in ordre specifice

2664

Euery pes / longyng to armure,

And ther-vpon / do my bysy cure,

It wer in soth / almost a dayēs werk ;

2641. they] *om.* Bo. 2642. crowne Bo. M. Ad₁. to] hym M. Di. E₂. hym to C
 2644. Vnto Ar. G. C. P. E₂. And to L₂. Ro. Into Bo. *and the rest.* 2645. lik
om. Bo. oth] both Ar. and her] and T₁. 2646. bounde Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra
 boundyn L₂. 2647. Cam] cause M. Di. 2648. Redy] godely C. Lowly E₂
 what] that Ra. hym] it M. Di. list] *om.* S. hym list] he wold L₂. Ro. devise
 to devise T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. E₁. S. 2649. hadde] bath Ad₁. Ad₂. I. trouth
 T₁. M. trouth Ar. Bo. Ad₁. ful] wel Bo. L₂. Ro. fully Du. L₁. M. Di. C
 2650. goodly hem] hem goodly Ad₁. Ad₂. I. them godly S. 2653. fynaly
 fully M. Di. this] his L₂. Ro. 2654. ygadred] Ther gadred L₂. Ro. gadere
 C. M. 2655. Ychosen] Ichose Lb. Chosen T₁. C. Ichosen was Ra. al] the Lb
 2656. manful] manly M. Di. 2659. with sper] and with spere Ad₁. Ad₂. I
second with *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. 2661. may] might Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S
 C. P. E₂. mowe Lb. men may] myhte men Ra. Ba. gyses Bo. M. Ad₁
 2662. of Armyng newe] or armoure new Du.

- And the termēs also ben to derk, 2668
- To reherce hem clerly *and* to Ryme :
- I passe ouer / only for lak of tyme. so I leave it alone.
- And telle I wil / forth of her loggyng^t,
- How Adrastus / the noble worthy kyng^t, 2672 Adrastus gives
- Hath euery lord / lik to his degrè, [leaf 45]
- Receyuēd wel / with-Innen his Cytè : every one good lodging,
- And ther they haddē / lik to her plesaunce,
- Of what nedeth / fulsom habundaunce, 2676
- For man and hors / plentē of Vitaylle ; and food for man and horse.
- Comaundyng^t / that^t no thyng^t ne faylle
- That^t alle thise noble worthy werreoures,
- Both high and lough · *and* poorē* soudeoures, 2680
- Iseruēd weren of that^t they haddē nede.
- For Adrastus / prudently took hede,
- Ful lik a kyng / touchyng^t her termē-day, ¶ What vayleth a kyng to payen his puple trewly her sowde.
- That^t thei to-forn / wer seruēd of her pay. 2684
- He was so free / hym list^t no thyng restreyñ ;
- And no man haddē causē to compleyn
- For hunger / thrust / nor for Indygence. No one could complain.
- And in a prince / it^t is ful gret^t offence, 2688
- As clerkēs seyn / and a gret^t reпреef, It's a great reproach to a prince to be full
- Suffre his puple / lyven at mescheef.
- It^t is ful hevly / and greuouse in her thoght
- ȝif he habound^t / and they han right^t noght. 2692 and leave his foik empty.
- he may not^t both / possedē good and herte,
- He to be riche / and Seen his puple smerte.

2668. also ben] ben also Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. E₁. bethe also P. to] so L₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₂. Ro. 2669. clerly] pleylnly Ro. and to] into Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2673. euery] euery worthi Ra. lik] logged lik Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2674. with-Innen Ar. G. Ap. withynne T₁. Lb. Ad₂. I. Ra. T₂. with-in Bo. M. Di. Ad₁. Ba. E₁. S. C. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. in-to L₁. his] the Ra. C. T₂. P. E₂. 2676. what] what that Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. P. what theim Ba. S. fulsom] fwl S. 2678. that] there that Ad₁. Ad₂. I. that ther Ra. Ba. ne] ther S. om. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. P. 2679. noble] om. P. worthy] om. Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. 2680. poure M. pore Du. poor Ar. poer Bo. pour Ad₁. 2681. Iserued] Serued M. Di. had Bo. M. Ad₁. 2684. wer seruēd] seruēd wern M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2686. hadde cause Ar. Ad₁. had cause Bo. cause had M. 2687. thurst Bo. M. Ad₁. 2690. Suffre] To suffer L₁. S. P. E₂. Ro. lyuen] lue E₂. Ro. L₂ (lyf). to lyven L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. C. to lyue M. Di. S. P. at] in I. L₂. in a S.

- He may the body / of power wel constreyne,
 But her hertē / hath a ful long^r Reyne, 269
 Maugrē his myght / to louen at her large.
 Ther may no kyng^r / on hertēs sette a charge,
 Nor hem coarten* / from her lybertē.
- Thought is free. Men seyn ful oftē / how that thought is fre. 270
 For which eche princē / lord / and gouernour,
 And specialy euery Conquerour,
 Lat hym be war / for al his high noblesse,
 That bountē, Freedom / plentē, and largesse, 270
 Be on accord / that they his brydel lede,
 Lest of his puple / whan he hath most nede,
 He be defrauded / ; whan he is but allone,
 Than is to latē forto make his mone. 270
- He must banish stinginess ;
 But in his courte / lat hym first devise
 To exile scarshed and couetise ;
 Than is he likly / with fredam ȝif he gynne,
 loue of his puple / euermore to wynne, 271
 To regnē long^r in honure, and contune
 Ay to encesse / be fauour of fortune,
 And his ennemyes manly to oppresse.
- which is more than gold.
 For loue is mor / than gold or gret richesse ; 271
 Gold faileth oftē / louē* wol abyde

2695. power] pore Ad₁. poore Ad₂. I. E₁. poor Ra. poer Ba. the power l
 povert S. He may wel be body of pore c. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. He may the poore bo
 well c. Lb. wel] om. Ro. 2696. herte Ad₁. hert Bo. M. 2697. louen] lyv
 Ad₂. I. her] their L₂. there Ro. om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. F
 Ba. E₁. S. T₂. 2699. Nor] Ne Lb. E₂. L₂. Ro. Nere P. coarten Bo (
correction ; the a is quite different from the usual form). Ba. C. T₂. E₂. Ap. coal
 P. Ro. coart L₂. coharten Ra. coherten Ar. Ad₂. coerten G. cohercen T₁. I
 Lb. Ad₁. I. E₁. coercen M. Di. coverten L₁. to bynd S. from] for]
 2701. For which] Wherfore M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. S. T₂. Wher Ad₂. I. eche] ec
 one S. euery Lb. lord] om. C. 2703. hegh Ar. G. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. A
 om. Bo. and the rest. 2705. on Ar. oon Bo. M. Ra. one E₁. T₂. Ap. o
 Ad₁. Ad₂. I. in Ar., between his and brydel, is written plei, but this is b
 crossed through and underdotted. 2708. is] is it Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. C. it is
 Ba. T₂. his] om. Ad₂. I. 2710. scarshed] scarste L₁. Ad₁. scarsete Ad₂.
 scarstye Ro. scarnesse C. and] and eke M. and foule Di. and fals Ra. I
 2711. is he] he is Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. is E₂. likly] like Di. gynne] begynne Ad₂.
 S. P. 2713. and] to P. L₂. Ro. contune] continue Bo. Du. Ra. Ba.
 contunew S. contenu Ap. 2714. Ay] As T₁. euer C. of] and Bo. Du. A
 I. Ra. or Lb. 2714 om. in G. 2717. loue] gold Ar. and loue Du. but lo
 P. E₂.

For lyf or deth / be a lordys syde ;
 And the tresour / shortly, of a kyng^t
 Stondeth in loue / abouen * allë * thyng^t. 2720

Farwel lordshipe / bothë * morowe *and* Eve
 Specially / whan louë taketh his leve !
 And who so list^t / a merour forto make
 Of kyngly fredam / lat^t hym ensample take 2724

King Adrastus
 was so generous
 that his folk
 lovd him ;

So liberal and so bountevous
 Vnto his puple / at^t al tymës found^t :
 Which mad hym strong^t / his foomen to confound^t ; 2728

And loue only / his enmyes to werreye,
 Alle greçë made his bidding^t to obeye,
 Of oon accord / knyghtly be his side,
 Al attones / to Thebës forto ryde, 2732

and all Greece
 was ready to
 join him in war
 against Thebes.

[leaf 46]

For tavengë / sith they were so strong^t,
 The gret^t Iniurye / *and* the inportable wrong^t
 Don to his sone / *and* his next^t allye,
 As 3e to-forn / han herd me specifie. 2736

But^t whilë * Grekës / rest^t a whil in pees,
 I will resort^t / vnto * Ethiocles :
 which * in Thebës warly hath espied,

In Thebes,
 Eteocles

Be his frendes / as he was certefied, 2740
 Of the Grekys / hooly the ordinaunce,
 Her purpoos ek / and her purueaunce,
 And therof had in herte a manere drede.

And first^t he took his counsayle *and* his rede 2744

takes counsel
 of his lords

2719. the] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2720. aboven alle] *about* al (all, alle) Ar. Bo. *and all the other MSS.* 2721. bothe M. Ra. bope T₁. both Ar. Bo. bothe at Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2733. For tavenge Ar. G. Bo. T₁. M. Di. Ad₁. E₁. S. C. E₂. For to avenge Du. L₁. Ra. Ba. Ad₂. I. P. L₂. For to venge Ap. For the avenge T₂. 2734. *second the om.* Di. C. E₂. Ro. Ap. 2735. Don to] Vnto C. T₂. P. E₂. sone] sone Polymytes Ap. and] and to Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. allye] *om.* Ba. 2737. But] *om.* Ro. whil Ar. while Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. E₁. C. T₂. Ro. Ap. whiles L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. P. E₂. L₂. whils Ra. rest a whil] areste a whyle E₁. a while rest T₂. rest a time E₂. *in P.* 2737, *as the bottom line of leaf 44 back, reads* But whiles Grekes reste a while in pece ; *it is inadvertently repeated as top line of leaf 45 front, in a slightly altered shape :* But whyle that Grekes reste a whyle in pese. 2738. resort] ayen resorte T₂. me resort Ad₂. I. vnto] to Ar. E₁. L₂. Ap. 2739. which in] with Inne Ar. G. E₁. with in Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. The whiche in Lb.

- Of the lordis / and barons / of the toun,
 And of the wisest / of his Region,
 as to his defence. How he myghte maken resistence,
 Manfully / to stonden / at diffence, 274
 To be so strong^t / that^t ther wer no doute.
 ¶ How Ethiocles And in the contrees / adjacent^t aboute,
 made hym strong ageyn þe comyng of þe Grekes. And ek also in foreyn Regions,
 He hath withhold / all the Champiouns ; 275
 He sends to his friends, And ther-vpon / he sent^t out^t his espies
 And his frendës and his next^t allies
 And alle the worthy / dwellyng^t envircoun,
 3ong / fressh / and lusty / he gadred into toun ; 276
 masks his walls, and mans em with soldiers. Maskowede his wallys / and his heghë* tours,
 And stuffed hem / with manly sowdëours.
 Round aboute / he settë many Gonnys,
 Eteocles Grete and smale / and somë large as tonnys ; 276
 And, in his hasty / passing^t feruent^t hete,
 gives great gifts to knights [leaf 46, back] He spent^t his tresour / and gaf giftës grete
 Vnto knyghtes / and worthy men of name ;
 And ouermorë* / to encreas his fame, 276
 and lords, he 3af to lordes / Iuellis many-fold,
 Clothës of Veluet / of Damask, and of gold,
 To gete hym hertës / sothly, as I rede,
 to help him. To helpe hym now in his grete nede. 276
 He lays in store of flesh and fish, And prudently purveiëd / hym to-forñ
 Of flessch and fissh / and of wyn and corñ.

2745. the] his L₂. lordis Ar. lordes Bo. and the rest. barons] of þe barouns Bo. T₁. Du. M. E₁. þe Barons Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. 2746. his] þis Bo. the Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ro. 2749. so] om. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. P. wer] be Di. Ap. 2752. He] om. Ro. withhold Ar. withholde Bo. M. Ad₁. 2753. sent] sende Lb. his] om. Bo. espies] spies Ra. 2756. 3ong fressh and lusty] younge lustie and fressh Ba. into] to Lb. P. E₂. toun] the toun L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. Ap. 2757. Maskowede Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂. Ro. Mascewyd I. E₂. Mascawed P. Maskowes Ap. Mannyd L₂. his] om. L₁. hye Bo. M. Ad₁. hegh Ar. heghe] om. E₂. 2758. manly] many Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. Ap. (cp. 2759). 2760. some Ar. som Bo. and some] om. T₁. as] at Bo. 2764. ouermore M. Ad₁. C. T₂. G. ouermor Ar. euer more Bo. and the rest. 2765. Iuellis Ar. T₁. Lb. iewelis T₂. iowellis L₂. Ro (Iowewelles). Inels Bo. Du. Ad₁. Iewels M. Iuellis] yeftes C. 2768. his] this Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. 2769. hym] om. Bo. 2770. and of] and M. Di.

Sette his Capteyns / erly / *and* ek¹ late
 with ful gret¹ stuf strong¹ at euery gate. 2772
 And mad also be werkmen / that¹ were trewe,
 Barbykans / *and* bulwerkës newe, and builds new
 Barreris / cheynys / *and* dichës wonder depe ; bulwarks.
 Makyng his Vouh the Citè forto kepe 2776
 Whil he lyueþ / despit of aH his foon.
 And by his goddys of metal *and* of stoñ,
 Ful ofte he swoor / both of herte *and* thouht, He swears that
 That¹ it shal first / ful derë* be abouht, 2780
 And many a man with pollex, swerd, *and* knyff many shall die
 To-for this tounè / shal first lese his liff,
 And ther shal ek / many sydës blede,
 Or his brother possibly possede 2784 before his
 The tounè in pees / lich as Grekës wene. brother shall
 But¹ at¹ the ende / the trouthë* shal be sene, win Thebes.
 lat hym be war *and* wel to-forn provyde !
 For Adrastus / on that other side, 2788 Adrastus
 For his party was not¹ necligent,
 But¹ on a day / helde a parlement, holds a parlia-
 AH his lordës sitting¹ enviroun, ment.
 To dryvë shortly / a pleyn conclusioun 2792
 And vp tapoynt¹ / the fyn of ther entent. [leaf 47]
 But¹ somë thoughte / ful expedient,
 Or they procede / to wirkë* be thavice

2771. capiteyns Bo. M. Ad₁. erly and ek] bope erly and Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2773.
 werkmen M. werke men Bo. workmen Ad₁. 2774. bulwerkes Bo. bolewerkes
 M. bolwerkes Ad₁. 2775. Barreris S. Barrers T₁. Du. M. Ad₁. Ra. Barreys
 Ro. Berrers T₂. Berrouis L₂. Barres Bo. E₁. Barrys Ap. 2776. vowe Bo.
 M. voy Ad₁. 2777. all] om. M. Di. 2780. dere M. Ad₁. der Ar. Bo. ful
 dere be] be full dere Ba. P. be Ra. C. ben Ba. M. Ad₁. about Ar. Bo. T₁.
 Du. Ad₁. I. E₁. y-bought Lb. M. Di. T₂. E₂. Ap. bought L₁. *and the rest*.
 2781. pollax Bo. M. Ad₁. 2782. lese] leue Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2784. Or] Or
 that C. T₂. P. E₂. For G. pesibly Bo. Ad₁. Ra. peisibly M. pesible G.
 possibly E₂. Ap. Ba. possede] shal possede L₁. 2785. Grekes] þe grekes G.
 2786. trouthe M. Ad₁. trouth Ar. Bo. 2789. party] parte E₁. Ba. necligent]
 negligent Bo. T₁. Du. M. Ad₂. S. C. T₂. E₂. 2790. helde] he held Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
 Ra. Ba. S. a] his E₂. parlement] parlyamente E₁. P. 2793. vp] vpon S.
 tapoynt Ar. Bo. M. to appoynte Du. Di. thapoint Ad₁. E₁. the appoynt Ad₂.
 I. the point Ra. þe poynt S. 2795. wirke Bo. wirk Ar. werke M. Ad₁.
 thavys M. Ad₁. þe avice Bo.

It is thought best to go by the advice of the wise old bishop,	Of on that ^t was ful prudent ^t <i>and</i> right ^t wyce And circumspecte / in his werkës alle, A worthy bisshop / into agë falle, And Callëd was, sothly / by his name	279
Amphiorax.	Amphiorax / of whom the grete fame	280
¶ How the bys- shope Amphiorax was sent for to come to þe Grekes.	Thorgh al the londe / bothen est ^t <i>and</i> south, Amongës* Grekës / passingly was kouth ^t ; A man, in soth / of olde antiquytë And most ^t acceptid of auctoritë, First be resoun of his high estat ^t And ek for he was so fortunat ^t	280
He knew the secrets of the Gods,	In his werkës, and was also secrë with the goddys, knowyng ^t her pryvetë : By graunt ^t of whom / as bookës specifiye, He hadde a spirit / of trewë prophecie,	280
and could tell how things should end.	And cowde afor ⁿ ful opynly dyvyne Thynggës begonnë / how they shuldë* fyne, And eke, be craft ^t / of Calculacioun, 3iuc* a dome / of euery questioun ; And hadde in magik / grete experience, And fyndë cowde / be heuenly influence And by mevyng ^t / of þe heghë* sterrys, A fynal doome of Contek <i>and</i> of Werrys ;	281
He knew that if the Grekes went to war,	And wistë* wel, as his goddys tolde, that, 3if Grekës / forth her iournë holde, It ^t turnë* shuldë* platly /, this no fage,	282

2796. ful] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. right S. right] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. C. T. P. E₂. ful Ro. wys Bo. M. Ad₁. 2801. londe] landes E₂. bothen Ar. B. Du. bothe T₁. M. Ad₁. both L₁. 2802. Among Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. Greke the Grekes E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. passingly] passyng L₁. S. P. passingly was] w. passingly Ad₁. was passyng L₁. S.; *in* Ad₂. *and* I. 2802 reads Most wyttly callid in euery mannys mouth. 2806. Ar. *has a pause-bar after* was. 2807. *an om.* C. P. was also] also was C. secre] secret L₂. Ro. P. S. 2808. pryvet pryvet L₂. 2812. shulde Bo. sholde Ad₁. shuld Ar. shold M. 281 yeue Bo. M. Ad₁. 3if Ar. 3ef G. dome] iudgment S. 2816. cowde] he coue Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2817. mevyng] meanyng E₁. þe] *om.* T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ac I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. hegh Ar. hie M. Ad₁. *om.* Bo. 2819. wist Ar. Bo. M. Ac his] *om.* Bo. þe Ad₁. Ad₂. I. P. here Di. 2820. Grekes] the Grekes G. Grekes forth her iournë] the iournay forth by Grekes Ad₁. the iornee forth off th Grekes Ad₂. I. 2821. turne Bo. torne M. Ad₁. turn Ar. shulde Bo. shold Ad₁. shuld Ar. shold M. this Ar. M. pis is Bo. Di.

To gret^t meschief / and to gret^t damage

Of hem ychoñ / ; and in especial

[leaf 47, back]

The moste parte / of the blood Royal

2824 ¶ The proph[et]ie
of Amphiorax.
most of its
Kings would
be slain,

Thorgh al Grece, it^t may not^t be withdrawe,

In this viagē shortly shal be slawe ;

And ȝif hym-silf / with the Grekēs wente,

Who that^t euer wepte hym / or bymente,

2828

This was the fyn / and may nat^t be socoured,

Of the erth / he shuldē* be deuoured,

and he himself
devoured alive.

Quyke as he was, he knewe it in certeyn.

And for he saugh ther was non oþer geyn

2832

To saue his lif / nor no* bet^t diffence,

To save his life,
he hides himself,

Than vtterly withdrawen his presence ;

¶ Preying^t his wiff / for hym to provide,

ȝif he wer sought^t / that^t she wold^t hym hide,

2836 and asks his wife
to keep him
secret.

And wommanly / for to kepe hym cloos,

And of trouthe concelen his purpoos ;

For al his trust^t / touchyng^t his greuaunce,

was fully sette / in hir purvyance.

2840

I hope to god / that^t he thar not^t drede

Of no deceyt^t / in hir^t wommanhede.

She was so trewe / as wommen ben echon,

And also cloos / and mwēt^t as a stoñ,

2844

That^t she ne wold / as the matier stood,

At first, she
does so,

Discurēn hym / for no worldly good.

2822. To gret] In-to Ad₁. I. Vn-to the Ad₂. and to] and Ad₁. Ad₂. of I. 2824.
moste M. moost Bo. Ad₁. parte Ar. Bo. Du. M. Ba. E₁. P. Ap. part T₁. L₁. Lb.
Ra. S. C. T₂. L₂. Ro. partie Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. blood E₂. of] right of E₂. 2827.
ȝif hym-silf with] of him why E₂. the] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. C. P. 2828.
wepte] bewepete P. 2830. erth Ar. Bo. erthe M. Ad₁. shulde Bo. sholde
Ad₁. shuld Ar. shold M. 2832. he saugh] þe soothe Lb. 2833. saue] haue
T₁. no] to Ar. G. bet] better Ra. Ba. S. L₂. Ro. 2834. vtterly] Covertly P
(on erasure, apparently written by the same hand as the text). withdrawen] to
withdrawen Bo. Du. L₁. Lb. Ra. E₁. to withdrawe T₁. M. Di. Ba. S. C. T₂. P. E₂.
2838. concelen Ar. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. conseleyn G. counceken E₁.
S. consele L₂. counseilen Bo. conseilyn Ap. conceyle Ro. conceling Ba. C.
T₂. counceylng L₁. P. conceiling E₂. 2841. that] om. Bo. he] the Ra. him
Ba. om. Du. thar] that S. there E₂. ther-of Lb. nede E₁. dar T₁. L₁. M. Di.
I. C. L₂. dare T₂. P. Ap. 2842. no] om. Lb. 2843. echon] euerychon Bo.
T₁. Du. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. 2844. mwet altered from muet Ar. mwet
Du. mewet Bo. muyt M. Ad₁. 2845. matier] mille E₂. 2846. Discuren]
Diskevyr L₂. Ro. Disceyven Ad₂. Dyscry S. no worldly] al the wordles Ad₁.
alle the worldis Ad₂. I.

- ¶ But fynaly / the Grekës, of entent,
 In al his drede / han* for this bisshop sent; 284
 Thogh it was long / er they myght hym fynde,
 For cause his wif / was to hym so kynde,
 That ful seurly / hath lokked vp his cors.
 But for she hadde a maner of remors 285
 In hir-silf / grevyng* her conscience,
 Dreding to falle / in ful grete offence,
 Lest her soulë / were in peryl lorñ,
 whan she be oth* / compellëd was and sworn; 285
 They requeryng / 3if she coudë telle
 wher her lord the bisshop shuldë* dwelle :
 Which to discure / hir herte was ful loth,
 Til tyme she gan / remembren on her oth*, 286
 And coude a trouth / of Custom not denye
 And hadde also gret conscience to lye,
 Wonder hevy / with a sorrowful face,
 Maugrë hir lust / taught hem* to the place 286
 wher as he was / shet vp in a toure,
 Al alonë / havyng no socour.
 They falle on hym / or that he was war,
 And sette hym vp / in a ful richë Char. 286
 A fool he was / to Iupard his lif
 Forto discure his counsel to his wif ;
 And 3it she was ful sory for his sake,
 Specially / whan she saugh hym take. 287
 Bot I hopë / that her hevynesse

[leaf 48]

¶ How the wif
 of Amphiorax of
 conscience to
 saue her hoth
 discused her
 husband.
 but on being put
 to her oath,

she sadly tells
 them where
 Amphiorax is,

in a tower.

Amphiorax was
 a fool to trust
 his secret to his
 wife.

2848. his] this Ad₂. I. S. Ad₁ (t underdotted). her L₂. han Bo. M. Ad₁. C. hath Ar. this Ar. Ad₂. I. C. T₂. E₂. þe Bo. G. and the rest. 2849. was] we Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2853. grevyng] gervyng Ar. 2854. falle Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. f. Du. 2856. oth] both Ar. 2857. They] there E₁. requeryng] required B. P. requyryng her L₁. coude] wolde P. 2858. shuld Ar. Bo. shold M. Ad₁. 2860. her] the M. Di. both Ar. 2862. hadde] om. Bo. she had Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. had sche S. gret] om. M. Di. a grete Ad₂. I. as gret S. to] for Ro. 2864. hem] hym Ar. 2865. wheras] Wher þat Di. shet Ra. shitte Bo. M. shut Ad₁. 2866. Al] om. Ba. 2867. falle] fell L₁. E₁. E₂. They falle on hym Allas Amphimorax Ro. that] om. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. T₂. P. Ro. wa were Ad₂. I. 2868. And sette hym vp] Is take and sett Ro. 2869. fool] gret fool E₁. yeoparde E₁. E₂. Iupart Bo. iupart M. T₂. iubarte P. iupart Ad₁. C. iupertin S. 2871. she was] was she M. Di.

- Gan asswage ful sonë, by processe,
 In short tymë / whan that he was goñ.
 Ther is no tempest / may last euere in oñ. 2876
 ¶ But this bisshope / be verrey force *and* myght, He was taken
 Vnto Grekes / conveyëd was ful right, to the Greeks,
 This hoorë* gray / in his char syttyng.
 And they ful gladë* / wern of his coñyng, 2880
 havyng a trust / *and* ful opynyoun
 That, thorgh cause and occasioun
 Of his wisdam / *and* his sapience [leaf 48, back]
 And by vertue / of his hegh presence, 2884
 They shuld eschewe / al aduersitè
 Possible to falle / as in her Iournè. to avoid ad-
 versity.
 And, as the story / fully hath devised,
 Ful circumspect / and riht wel avised, 2888
 he hath pronouncëd / in the Parlement,
 To-forn the lordës / and the president,
 his Cleer conceyte / in verray sikernesse,
 Nat entrykëd with no doubleness, 2892
 her dysemol daiës / and her fatal houres,
 Her auenturys / and her sharpë shoures,
 The froward soort / and the* vnhappy stoundys,
 The compleyntës / of her dedly woundys, 2896
 The wooful wrath / and the* contrarioustè
 Of fellë Mars / in his cruelte,
 And howe, by mene / of his gery mood, and how
2874. asswage] taswage M. C. E₂. to aswage Di. to swage T₂. P. 2875.
 that] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. T₂. he] she C. T₂. 2876. tempest] tempest
 that T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C. P. may last] last may
 Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. lastith Ra. Ba. euere] ay M. 2878. Grekes] the Grekes T₁.
 Du. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. P. L₂. Ro. 2879. hoore Bo. hore Ad₁. hoor Ar. M.
 char] chair Ba. 2880. glad Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. 2882. That] om. C. T₂. P. E₂.
 cause] be cause L₁. T₂. E₂. 2884. hegh] om. Ra. Ba. P. presence] prescience
 C. P. E₂. prudence Bo. T₁. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2885. eschewe Ar.
 Bo. Ad₁. eschu M. 2886. falle Ar. Bo. Ad₁. fall M. fallen C. 2888.
 riht wel] a wele G. 2892. entryked] entrikled Du. 2893. dysemol Ar. T₁. Du.
 disemoll L₁. S. disemoll Lb. dysmol M. Ad₁. dysmole E₁. C. T₂. L₂. dysmele
 Bo. dysemele Ro. disemale E₂. 2895. soort] sortes Ap. sette P. and] of
 L₁. the] om. Ar. G. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. here Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 2897.
 the] om. Ar. G. L₂. Ap. contrarioustè] contrariocite altered from contrarioussites
 L₂. contrauersite Di. contrauerse E₁. 2899. gery M. Ad₁. ghery Bo.

all the best blood of Greece would be shed.	Ther shal be shadde / al the worthy blood Of the Grekes / it' may not' ben eschewed, If her purpoos be execute / and swed. "Ther is no morë / this shal be the fyn : The hegh noblesse shal drawë to declyne Of Grekës blood / in meschief, sorowe, <i>and</i> woo :	2900 2905
Amphiorax himself	And with al this / I my-silf also, As my fatë hath a-forn disposyd, Depe in the grounde / I shal be enclosed,	2908
will be kild.	And lokked vp / in the dirkë* vale Of cruel deth." / lo ! this was the tale	
He urges Adrastus not to fight Thebes,	That' the bisshope / to Adrastus tolde, Hym counsayllyng' / his purpos to withholde,	2911
[leaf 49]	In eschuyng' of mor meschief <i>and</i> sorowe. For alle his goddis he took vnto borowe, 3if þe Thebans / and þe grekës mete, The fyn þerof shal be so vnsweete	2914
for all Greece shall rue it.	þat' alle grece after shal it' rewe ; warnyng' hem / 3if þei the meschief knewe That shal folowe / which no man may lette, Thei wold abstene / a siegë forto sette Vnto Thebës / <i>and</i> her purpoos leve.	2917 2921
The Argive lords abuse Amphiorax,	with whos wordes / the lordës gan hem greve, And ther-Inne haddë* / but ful smal delit', And euerechoñ / of hertly hegh despit', They abrayde / and seide he was vntrewe, A controover / of propheciës newe, And ek also / for al his longe berde,	2924 2927

2900. Ther] The Ar. 2901—2904 omitted in Du. 2902. execute] execut
Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. swed] shewid L₁. served P. 2909. dirk Ar. derke Bo. A.
derk M. 2914. vnto] to T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. 2916. so] ful Bo. T₁. Du. M.
Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. om. L₁. Lb. Ra. Ba. E₁. P. vnsweete] vnsette S (; mett
2919. which Ar. G. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. om. Lb. þat Bo. *and* the r.
2920. Thei] The Ar. 2922. whos] whiche Ad₁. Ad₂. I. T₂. gan] gonne M. L.
T₂. hem] om. M. Di. 2923. hadde T₂. had Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. om. Di. b]
om. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. P. ful] om. Lb. 2924. euerechon] eueriche Lb.
2926. A] And a G. P. E₂. Ro. And I. Ap. controover Ar. Bo. Du. M. Ad₁. Ra. L.
C. contreuer Di. T₂. P. E₂. contryver G. T₁. L₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. L₂. Ro. contret
Lb. contrarye Ap. 2927 omitted in Ad₂. and I.; 2928 in Ad₁. and Ad₂. insert
after 2934, in I. omitted altogether (see Introduction). 2927. ek also] also
Ad₁. al] om. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ra. E₁. S. C. T₂. P.

- An olde Dotard / a coward, *and* aferde ; 2928 call him an old dotard,
 And of Rancour / gonnë* to diffye
 Both his kalkyng^t / and his astronomye,
 And shortly seide / þei took therof non hede,
 Ne wil no-thing^t / gouerne hem after his rede. 2932 and say they'll not follow his advice,
 This was the clamour / *and* noyse, in euery cost,
 Of hegh and lough^t / þorgh-out all the hoost,
 And specialy / of the sowdëours, specially the
 And of lordës / regnyng in her flours, 2936
 And of thestates / effectuely, I mene,
 which of agë / were but tendre *and* grene, young folk.
 That han * not hadde / by martys Influence,
 Of the werrë / gret^t experience. 2940
 ¶ her, 3if 3e list^t / 3e may considre *and* Se
 Of conceytes ful grete diuersytë,
 How that 3outh / no peril cast^t a-forñ But Youth [leaf 49, back]
 Til he by * meschief / sodeynly be lorñ*, 2944 is rash,
 Wher as age / provydeth / euery thing
 Or he bygynne / to casten the endyng^t.
 ¶ 3outh is gouernyd / be a largë Reyne ¶ How age *and* 3outh ben of diuerse opynyons
 To renne forth, and can hym not reffreyñ, 2948
 But^t of hede / set on al attonys, runs its head against stones,
 As he that hurtleth / ageynës hardë stonys

2929. gonne Di. Ad₁. C. P. E₂. Ro. gon M. T₂. gan Ar. Bo. *and the rest.*
 to] hym to Ad₂. hym I. diffye Di. T₂. defye Bo. M. Ad₁. 2930. his] for his
 Ad₂. of his I. kalkyng] calkeling *written on erasure with blacker ink* Ad₁.
 calcing E₂. calculyng Lb. talkyng Ad₂. I. 2932. no-thing] in no thyng S.
 after] by C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. 2933. Ar. *has coste with the final e crossed*
out with a vertical stroke. 2935. sowdeours] poure soudeours C. T₂. P. E₂.
 2936. lordes] yong lordes S. regnyng Bo. reynyng M. Lb. her] om. E₁. hygh
 Ap. 2939. ha Ar. Ap. haue Bo. M. han Ad₁. hathe P. by] of E₂. martys]
 Mertys L₁. Marces E₂. 2940. werre] warres T₂. verrey L₁. very P. gret] ful gret
 C. T₂. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 2942. conceytes] coueiting C. T₂. P. E₂. ful] om. Lb.
 C. T₂. E₂. off P. diuersyte] aduersite Lb. Di. Ad₂. I. T₂. P. E₂. Ap. 2943.
 How] And hou C. T₂. no] in Ra. cast] castith Ra. Ba. L₂. 2944. Til] to
 Du. he by (G. T₁. L₁. Lb.)] he Ar. by Bo. M. Di. he in C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro.
 Ap. hie Du. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. þe E₁. S. lorn G. Bo. L₁. Lb. M. Di. C. T₂.
 P. E₂. L₂. Ro. forlorn T₁. born Ar. Du. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. Ap. beforñ Ba.
 2945. thinge *with e underdotted in* Ar. 2948. renne Ar. T₁. M. ren Bo. Du.
 ronne Ba. S. sterte E₂. hym not] not him Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁.
 S. 2949. of hede] on hede Ra. Ba. P. set] settith Ra. Ba. 2950. hurtleth]
 hurtyllyth L₂. ageyne Bo. ayen M. ageyn Ad₁. hard^t *altered to harde in* Ar.
 harde] the harde T₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. Ro.

- Broseth hym-silf / vnwarly *and* parbraketh.
 But^t age experte / no thyng^t vndertaket^h 2952
 But^t he to-forⁿ / be good discrecioun,
 Make a due examynacioun
 How it^t wil tourne / outh^r* to badde or good.
 ¶ But^t 3outh, as fast^t / as ster^ed is the blood, 2956
 Taketh emprises of hasty wilfulnesse,
 Ioye at^t the gynnyng^t / the^t ende is wrechednesse.
 ¶ The old^e, prudent^t / in al his gouernaunce,
 Ful longe a-forⁿ / maketh purueaunce ; 2960
 But 3outh allas be counsail wil not wyrke,
 For which ful ofte / he stumbleth in the dyrke.
 Thus selde is seyne / the trouthe^t* to termyne,
 That^t age and 3outh^e* / draw^e be o lyne. 2964
 And wher that^t foly hath domynacioun,
 Wisdam is putte / into subieccioun,
 lik as this bysshop /, with al his hegh prudence,
 For cause he myghte haue^t* / no audience, 2968
 ¶ How that wis-
 dam wip-oute
 supportacioun
 awayle^t lit or
 no3t.
 AH his wisdam / and his profecye
 Of the Grekes / was holden^t* but folye.
 For thogh Plato / and wis^e Socrates,
 Moral Senek / *and* Diogenes, 2972
 [leaf 50]
 Albumasar / *and* prudent^t Tholomee,
 And Tullius / that^t hadd^e souereynt^e

2951. Brosyth Ro. Bruseth Bo. Ad₁. Brisith M. Breseth P. vnwarly and
 and vnwarly C. T₂. P. E₂. 2953. be] of Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I
 Ra. Ba. E₁. S. as Lb. 2954. Make] makith Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. C. makyn
 S. due] full due T₂. dewe discrete Ro. 2955. oyther Ar. either Bo. M.
 other Ad₁. ouper Di. 2957. emprises M. Ad₁. enprises Bo. 2958. a
 the Ar. at Bo. M. atte Ad₁. gynnyng] begenyng S. Begynnyng P. 2960
 maketh] doth make Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 2961. wirke Bo. Ad₁. Ra. werk
 M. Ad₂. I. 2962. oft^t altered to ofte in Ar. dirke Ad₁. derke Bo. M. And
 that makith him / full ofte to smerte Ad₂. I. 2963. trouthe M. Ad₁. trout^t
 Ar. Bo. termyne] determyne Lb. P. 2964. yonthe Bo. M. Ad₁. 3outh Ar.
 drawe Bo. Ad₁. draw M. drawn C. 2967. this] þe L₁. I. S. P. L₂. Ro. his
 this M. al his] full P. hegh] om. G. Ra. Ba. C. 2968. he] þat he Du. Ar. ha
 a pause-bar also between myghte and ha. haue Bo. M. Ad₁. ha Ar. Ap. 2969
 second his] om. Lb. Ra. Ba. S. 2970. Of the Grekes] om. Ra. Ba. halden Ar
 holden Bo. M. Ad₁. was holden] holden was Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. C. Was rekned the
 but in (into Ba.) folye Ra. Ba. 2971. wise Ar. wys Bo. M. Ad₁. 2972
 Albumasar Ar. Bo. M. Albinnasar Ad₁. Albemosar P. Albimaser Ro. Albumage
 Ap. Tholomee] thelome C. 2974. hadde Ad₁. had Bo. M.

whylom in Rome / as of elloquence :		
Thogh aH thise / , shortly in sentence,	2976	What's the good of wise men's advice
were a-lyve / most' konnyng' and experte,		
And no man list / her counsel to aduerte,		if folk won't follow it?
Nor of her sawës / forto taken hede,		
What myght' availle / and it' cam to nede ?	2980	
For wher prudence / can fyndë no socour		
And prouidencë / haueth no favour,		
Farwel wisdam / farwel discrecioun,		
For lakke only / of supportacioun.	2984	
For vnsupported / with his lokkës hore,		
Amphiorax / sighën / gan ful sore		Amphiorax grieves that his advice is not taken.
With hede enclynnyd / and many evyl thought,		
whan that' he sauhe his counsayl stood for nought.	2988	
For vttrely / the grekës, as I tolde,		
han fully cast' / her Iournè for to holde,		
Made hem redy / and gonnen to hosteye		The Argives and their allies start for Thebes
Toward' Thebës / the Cytè to werreye ;	2992	
And in Grecë / wil no lenger tarye,		
And forth with hem / Amphiorax they carye,		with Amphiorax.
Sette in his Char / with a doolful herte,		
Whan he wist' / he myghte not' asterte	2996	
Of his fate / the disposicioun.		
And hosteyng' / into the Regioun		
Of lygurgus / Grekës gan approche		
A sondy londe / with many Craggy roche.	3000	They go thru a sandy desert,

2979. forto] wold Ra. Ba. 2980. What] whan Ra. myght] shuld it Ra. Ba.
 availle Ar. and all. and] if T₁. M. Di. Ra. whan Ba. 2982. prouidence]
 previdence Ra. Ba. prudence G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. haueth Ar. G. T₂. Ap. hath Bo.
 T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. L₂. Ro. haue M. Di. Ad₂. I. C. fyndith P.
 2987. and] with P. om. Ba. many] many an Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₂. evyl] heuy M.
 Di. Ad₂. I. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. 2988. that] om. M. Di. P. L₂. Ro. he
 sauhe] om. Ra. Ba. stood] stonde Bo. Du. E₁. S. 2990. fully] ful Ad₁. Ad₂.
 I. for to] to Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. holde] iholde E₂. 2991. redy] ostry L₁. gonnen
 Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. E₁. C. T₂. gonne M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. gan L₁.
 gonnen hem Ap. gan hem Ad₂. I. goon Ba. to] forto P. E₂. hosteye] hostrye L₁.
 hastye Ad₂. I. hasty L₂. hasty P. 2992. to] forto T₂. P. werreye] verreye L₁.
 werry L₂. werre (: hostee) Lb. waste P. 2995. char T₁. M. Ad₁. chare Bo.
 Ra. C. T₂. chair Ba. doolful] dulfull Ra. woful Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. 2997. the]
 his Bo. Du. Lb. E₁. and T₁. om. P. 3000. many a Bo. M. Ad₁.

	But ^t al the way, sothly, þat þei goñ,	
	For hors nor man / water was þer noñ :	
[leaf 50, back]	So dryë* weren the valës <i>and</i> the pleynys.	
	For al þat 3eere / they hadden had no reynys	3004
	But ^t ful gret ^t drouht ^t / as mad is mencioun ;	
and find no water.	And al the londe / Cerchyng ^t envircoun	
¶ þe grete mes- chief þat Grekes hadde for watere.	They nowther fondë / wellë nor* Ryver	
	hem to refressh / nor water that ^t was cler,	3008
	That ^t they allas / no refut ^t ne konne.	
	So inportable / was the shenë sonne,	
	So hoot ^t on hem / in feldës wher they leye,	
	That ^t for meschief / man <i>and</i> hors gan deye,	3012
	Gapyng ^t ful drye / vpward into south ;	
Men suck their spear heads	And soñë putten / her swerdës in her mouth	
	And sperys hedes /, in story as is told,	
of cold iron.	Taswage her thirst ^t / with the yren cold ;	3016
	And of his lif / ful many oñ dispeyred	
	In this meschief / and hom ageyn repeyred :	
Tideus and Ca- paneus	Tyl on a day / worthy Tydeus,	
	And with hym ek the kyng ^t Campaneus,	3020
ride out to search for water.	Of purposos rood / þorgh-oute the contrè	
	3if they myght ^t eny water ^t See,	
	Fro Coost to cost / bothë* fer and ner ;	
They enter a garden,	Til of fortune / they entred an herber,	3024
	with treës Shadowed for the sonnë Shene,	
	Ful of flourës* / and of herbës grene,	

3001. þat] as M. Di. Ad₁. I. 3002. nor] *om.* Bo. ne T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. was þer] fond þei Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3003. drye Bo. M. Ad₁. dry Ar. vales] valeyos Bo. Ro. vales C. L₂. 3004. had] *om.* M. Di. 3007. nowther Ar. neither Bo. Ad₁. Ra. ne M. fonde Ar. Bo. M. founde Ad₁. nor Ra. no Ar. ne Bo. Ad₁. neither M. 3008. nor Ar. M. ne Bo. Di. Ra. 3009. That] But Bo. T₁. L₁. Lb. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. refut] refuge L₁. ne konne] konne L₁. they ne konne Lb. fynde konne Ra. can fynd Ba (; soñ). 3010. importable Bo. M. Ad₁. 3010—3210 *lost in* Ro. 3011. *in* Ar., *before* leye, *is written* lay *but crossed through*. 3013. into] into þe L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ra. Ba. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. Ap. in þe Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3014. some M. Ad₁. som Bo. *om.* S. putten Bo. M. Ad₁. 3015. is] it is Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. 3016. thirst M. thirst Bo. Ad₁. ; *in* Ar. *cold* with e *underdotted*. 3016 *om.* in G. 3017. ful] *om.* Bo. 3018. hom] han Du. 3022. 3if] yf that C. mi3te Ad₁. might Bo. M. eny] ony where Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3023. bothe M. Ad₁. both Ar. Bo. 3024. they] he Ad₂. I. 3026. floures Bo. M. Ad₁. flours Ar. floures and of erbes M. Di. E₂. herbes and of floures Ar. Bo. *and the rest.*

Wonder hoolsom / both of syyt *and* ayr* ;
 Ther-Inne a lady / which passingly was fayr, 3028
 Sittyng as tho / vnder a laurer tre ; in which is a lady
 And in her Armes / a litil child hadd she, Ipsiphyle,
 Ful gracious / of loke and of visage, with a child,
 And was also / wondre tendre of age, 3032
 Sone of the kyng^t / born forto succede,
 Callēd ligurgus / in story as I rede, [leaf 51]
 Whoos hertly Ioye / and worldly ek disport^t, son of King Ly-
 Al his myrthē* / plesaunce, and confort^t 3036 curgus.
 Was in this child^t / of excellent^t fayrnesse.
 And this lady / Myroure of semlynesse,
 Al sodeynly as she cast vp her sight
 And on his stedē / sauh an armēd knyght^t, 3040
 Gretely abasshēd / gan anoñ remwe.
 But Tideus after gan to swe
 And seyde / “ sustir / beth no-thing dismayed,^t
 In 3oure-silf displese^d nor affrayed ! 3044
 For we ar come / only to þis place
 3ow to biseche / of mercy *and* of grace,
 Vs to socour / in oure grete nede,
 Declaring 3ou how it stont^t in dede : 3048
 her faste by / almost^t / at^t the hand,
 The worthiest^t of al Grekēs land^t,
 Kyngges, Prynces / be* loggēd in the feld^t,
 Tideus tells her
 what distress the
 Argives are in

3026. *om. in Ap.* 3027. syyt Ar. sizt Di. Ad₁. siht Ra. Ad₂. I. sight Bo. *and the rest.* ayr] hayr Ar. I. Ra. E₁. P. 3028. which Ar. þat Bo. M. Ad₁. *om.* Lb. passingly] passyng G. L₁. Ad₂. I. S. passandli Ra. Ba. was] *om.* Lb. was and L₁. passingly was] was passyng Ad₂. I. S. 3029. laurer] layry Bo. laury T₁. Du. M. laure Lb. E₁. E₂. laurell L₁. S. 3033. of] to G. L₁. vnto P. forto] to G. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. 3035. hertly] herty S. hertes E₂. worldly] worthy Ad₂. I. *om.* Ra. Ba. ek] *om.* S. P. 3036. myrth Ar. murthe Bo. merthe M. merth Ad₁. 3041. abasshed Bo. abaysshed M. baissshed C. anon remwe] renne a-weye faste Ad₂. I. 3042. swe] swe in haste Ad₂. I. 3043. sustre Bo. Ad₁. soster M. syster E₁. Ap. beth Ar. Du. Ad₁. bith Bo. M. C. be Di. 3045. ar Bo. M. arn Ad₁. come Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. 3047. socour Ar. Ad₁. socoure Bo. M. grete Bo. gret M. Ad₁. 3048. 3ou] to you Ba. S. how] *om.* T₂. stont Ar. Ad₁. stant Bo. M. stondith Ad₂. I. L₂. 3049. fast Bo. M. Ad₁. 3050. al] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Grekes] grece S. 3051. Kyngges Prynces] knyghtes and squyers Lb. be Bo. Ad₁. ben M. S. R. both Ba. ly Ar. G. logged] loggyng Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. S.

And many other / with pollex / speer and sheld, 305
 which in meschief / peryl, and gret dred,
 For want of water / ar likly to be ded.
 For ther was noñ / of hegh nor lowgh degre
 In aH our host /, now passèd daiës thre, 305
 That drank allas / excepting noñ estat;
 Our viage / is so infortunat:
 Preying 3ow / of wommanly pytè,
 Benygnely * / and graciously to se 306
 how of Grece aH þe Chyualrye
 Of her lyuës / stont in Iupartie;
 That 3e wold / of wommanhedè telle
 3if 3e knowë * Ryver / spryng, or welle, 306
 Specially / now in al oure Care,
 Of gentillesse vnto vs declare.
 lo: her is alle / 3if 3e list to here,
 That I wol seyn / myn ownë suster dere." 306
 And whan this lady / Inly vertuous,
 The conpleynt herde / of worthy Tydeus,
 Of verrey pytè / chaungeth cher and hewe,
 And in her herte / vpon her woo gan rewe, 307
 And ful goodly / seyng his distresse,
 Seyde vnto hym : in al his hevynesse,
 " Certës," quod she / " 3if I were at large
 Touching this child / of which I hauë charge, 307
 I shuld in hast / of al that doth 3ow greve

for want of
water,

[leaf 51, back]
and begs her to
tell him where
some is.

¶ How the ladye
taught Tydeus to
the welle.
The Lady says

that if it were
not for the child

3052. pollax Bo. M. Ad₁. polax L₁. L₂. speer] om. C. T₂. P. E₂. and] and w
C. T₂. P. E₂. with pollex speer and sheld] with spere pollax and sheld Ad₁. Ad₂.
3054. want] faute Lb. ar] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. likly] like L₁. S. P. ar lik
likli been Ra. 3055. before hegh in Ar. so is crossed through. 3057. excepti
Ar. P. L₂. Ap. I excepte E₂. except Bo. and the rest. 3058. Ar. has a sec
pause-bar between is and so. 3060. Benygnely T₁. L₁. Ad₂. Ra. C. Benygn
Ar. Du. M. benyngly Bo. Benyngnely Ad₁. Benyngnenly P. to] for to Bo.
Du. M. Di. E₁. S. 3062. stont] stonden C. stand Ad₂. I. 3064. know
knewe Ar. G. L₁. Ra. S. Ap. 3065. al] om. C. T₂. 3068. That] What I
om. Ba. I wol (wold G. L₂.) we wol T₁. L₁. Ad₂. I. ye wol Bo. Du. Lb. A.
E₁. S (wold). ye wil now M. Di. will ye Ra. Ba. owne] om. Bo. 3070. cc
pleynt Bo. M. Ad₁. 3071. verrey] womanly P. chaungeth] chaungid G.
cher] hide L₁. 3072. vpon] on Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. P. her] his P. E₂. 3076. f
which] of whom Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. which
P. E₂. that T₂. charge] the charge Ap. in charge C. T₂. P. E₂. 3077.]
om. Du.

- To my pouer / helpen to releve,
 Only of routh / and compassioun,
 And leue / al other / occupacioun, 3080
 Conveye* 3owe / and be 3oure trewe guyde she'd guide them
 To a Ryver / but lityl her be syde. to a River near.
 But I dar not / so moche me assure
 This litil child / to put in auenture. 3084
 I am so ferdful / from it to departe.
 But for 3oure sakē / yet* I shal iupartē
 Iy lif, my deth / of trewe affeccioun,
 To provyde / for 3our sauacioun." 3088
 I took the child / and laide it in her lappe,
 And richely in clothēs / gan it wrappe,
 And Couchēd it / among the herbēs soote, in the herbs,
 And leyde aboutē / many hoolsom roote 3092
 And flourēs ek / bothē* blewe and rede. [leaf 52]
 And suppressēd / with a maner drede
 With Tideus / forth / anon she wente,
 As she in trouthe* / that no treson mente, 3096
 And on hir way / woldē* neuere dwelle
 And she hym brouht / to a right faire welle
 And ta Ryvere / of water ful habounde. and takes Tideus
 to the River.

3378. helpe(n)] helpen you M. Di. helpe you E₂. to helpen L₁. to releue] and
 leue E₂. to my releve Ad₂. 3079. Only of routh] Of routhe only T₂. and]
 of T₁. Lb. Ad₂. I. E₂. 3081. Conveye Bo. M. Ad₁. Convey Ar. trewe Bo.
 w M. Ad₁. 3082. but] but a Ra. Ba. a L₁. Di. Ad₂. I. P. om. Ad₁. T₂.
 yl] om. T₂. 3083. moche Bo. M. Ad₁. so moche me] me so moche Bo.
 335. ferdful Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Ba. L₂. ferful M. Ad₁. and the rest, except
 orde P. it] him Ba. 3086. yet C. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. om. T₂. that Ar. G. Ad₁.
 I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. now Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. I] om. T₁. shal] om. E₁.
 shal] I Bo. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. C. I will T₂. woll I Lb.
 parte] in parte E₁. do parte E₂. 3091. herbes] leues G. 3092. leyde] om.
 I. aboute] aboute it L₁. Lb. Ra. Ba. aboute him Ad₁. Ad₂. I. many Lb. M.
 I. Ba. C. T₂. many an Bo. T₁. Di. Ad₂. I. Ra. P. E₂. L₂. 3093 omitted in
 3093. eke Bo. M. Ad₁. bothe Bo. M. Ad₁. both Ar. 3094. suppressēd]
 surprisēd it Ra. Ba. she suppressēd P. maner] maner of E₂. 3095. forth] om.
 forth anon] anon forth Bo. Ad₂. I. Ba. wente] yede P (written on erasure, by
 her hand, which has also added in the right-hand margin And þt wt a full good
 mente, to rhyme with 3096). 3096. As] And Ba. trouthe Bo. M. Ad₁. trouth
 that] om. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. C. 3097. on] in M. Di. E₁. S. C. T₂.
 Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. wolde] wold Ar. wolde she Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di.
 I. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. dwelle] reste ne dwelle P. 3098. brouht Ar. Bo. M.
 ughte Ad₁. to] vnto P. right] om. L₁. P. a right faire] right a faire Lb. M.
 I Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. T₂. 3099. ta Ar. to Ra. Ba. a Lb. to a Bo. and the
 er MSS. of water] om. Bo. ful] right Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C.

- But who was glad / *and* who was tho Iocounde 310
 But Tydeus / Seyng the Ryver !
 which in al hast / sente his messenger
 He sends to Adrastus,
 To Adrastus / and bad hym nat' abide,
 But doune descendē / to the Ryver-syde 310
 with al his host / recur forto haue
 and all the host run to the River.
 At this Ryver / her lyuēs forto saue.
 And þei en hast hem / makyng noñ abood,
 AH attonys / to the Ryver rood * 311
 Forto drynkē* / ; þei hadde so gret lust
 Of appetit / forto staunche her thrust.
 And somē dronk / *and* fonde it' did hem good ;
 Some drink sensibly ;
 And somē wern / so feruent and so wood 312
 Vppon the water / that in sikernesse,
 Thorgh vndiscret / and hasty gredynesse,
 Out of mesur / the watere so þei drynke
 and fall dead.
 That they fille ded / euene vpon the brynke ; 316
 Some bathe.
 And somē naked / into þe Ryvere ronne,
 Only for hete / of the somer sonne,
 To bathen hem / , the water was so cold ;
 And some also / as I haue * 3ow told, 320
 I menē tho that prudent wern and wise,
 The water drank / in mesurable wyse,
 [leaf 52, back] That of þe thrust / they haue * to-forn endured
 They were refresshēd / fully *and* recured. 324
 The Argives
 pitch their tents And Grekēs than / of hegh *and* lowe degré,
3100. But] And L₂. glad] tho glad S. and] *om.* Ra. was tho] was T₁. Ad₁. d₂.
 I. 3101. Seyng] seyng wel Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 3102. hast M. hast Bo.
 Ad₁. 3104 omitted in Ba. 3105 and 3106 are in Ba. contracted into one
 With all his oste recure their lives to save. 3105. Ost Ad₁. hoost Bo. 307.
 þei] this E₁. en hast] enhasted C. P. E₂. hasted T₂. in haste Ad₂. I. L₂. *om*
om. Di. Ad₂. I. P. þer L₂. makyng] and made Ba. made P. 3108. to into
 C. rood] bood Ar (*the copyist having written abood, erased the a but forgot to alter*
the b into r). 3109. drynke Bo. M. Ad₁. drynk Ar. lust (: 3110. thrus Ar.
 Du. Di. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. lust (: thirst) Bo. T₁. L₁. Lb. M. C Ap.
 list (: thirst) Ad₁. lyst (: thirst) Ad₂. list (: thirst) I. lust (: fyrste) G. 310.
 Of] and C. forto] and forto Ra. Ba. 3112. Ar. has a pause-bar also between
 some and wern. 3114. Thorgh] That through Ba. 3116. euene] *om.* R Ba.
 3119. bathen hem] bathem for L₁. bathen hem ther Ad₂. I. the] þat Ad₂.
 I. Ra. Ba. water] *om.* Ad₂. so] *om.* T₁. 3120. some] sure Ad₂. I. I Ar.
 haue Bo. M. Ad₁ (also 3123). 3ow] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3121. mene M Ad₁.
 meen Bo. 3123. thirst Bo. M. thrust Du. Di. Ad₁.

For high profit / and gret commoditè,
 Compas the Ryuere / cristalyn of sighte,
 Of oon accorde / they her tentys pylte
 To rest hem ther / in relees of her peyne,
 Only the space / of a day or tweyne.

3128 on the river-
bank.

And whylys Grekes / vpon the Ryuer' lay,

This Tydeus / vpon the same day

3132

Ful knyghtly / hath don his diligence,

This 3onge lady / with gret reverence,

To Adrastus / goodly to presente :

Adrastus

At whoos comyng' / þe kyng hym-silvē wente

3136

Ageynēs * hir' / she fallyng douñ on knees,

AH thestatēs present' and degrees

and his lords

Of Grekēs lond /, absent' was nat' oñ ;

And in his Armēs / took hir' vp anoñ,

3140

Thanking' hir' / of her bysynesse,

thank the lady,
Ipsiphyle,

Of hir' labour / and her kyndēnesse,

Behotyng' hir' / lik as he was holde,

If eny thyng' pleyonly that she wolde

3144

That' he may don / she shuld it' redy fynde.

And Grekēs aH /, the story maketh mynde,

Of thestatys / beyng' tho present',

Thankēd hir / with al her hool entent',

3148

For refresshyng / don to many Grek ;

And for her part' / they biheght' her ek,

and promise
that they'll do
anything for her
she tells them
to do.

With her body / and goodēs bothē* two,

What' her list' / comaunde hem forto do,

3152

3128. they her] þere her Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. ther S.
her is T₂. pyhte (pight T₁. Du. Lb. M. Ad₁. T₂)] were pight Bo. have they pight

3131. whiles M. Ad₁. whils Bo. whan Ra. Ba. 3136. hym-silvē Ar.

him-silf Bo. him-self M. Ad₁. 3137. Ageyns Ar. Bo. M. Ayeyns Ad₁. 3138.

hestates Bo. M. Ad₁. ; Ar. has a pause-bar before present. 3141. of] and of

Du. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. her] her gret M. Di. Ra. Ba. 3142. Of hir] And of hir

Du. and] and of M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. P. 3142 om. G. 3143.

Behotyng] Behetyng L₁. Behytyng L₂. Beseching Ba. 3145. shuld] shal Ad₁.

Ad₂. I. Ba. 3147. pestates Bo. M. Ad₁. 3149. refresshyng Ar. G. C. T₂. P.

Ap. þe refresshing Bo. and the rest (fresshing E₂). many Ar. G. T₂. L₂. Ap.

many a Bo. and the rest. 3150. part M. Ad₁. Ra. parte Bo. partie Ba. S.

ehight Bo. M. Ad₁. hiht Ra. they biheght] behightyng P. 3151. bothe

I. Ad₁. both Ar. Bo. 3152. comaunde hem] hem comande Ad₁. S. hem]

m. Du. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. forto] to Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. om. Ad₁.

- [leaf 53] To be redy platly / *and* nat' faille.
 And her myn autour / makeþ rehersaille
 That' þis lady / so faire vpon to se,
 Of whom þe namē was Isyphile, 3156
 To Adrastus told /, as 3e may rede,
 Lynealy / the stok / of her kynrede,
 Whilom how she / a kyngges doghter' was :
 Rehersyng' hym / hooly al the cas, 3160
 First' why þat' she / out' of her contrè wente,
 Shortly for she woldē* not' assente
 To execute / a conspiracioun,
 Mad by the wymmen / of that' Regioun, 3164
 A thyng contrayr / *and* ageyn al right,
 That eche of hem / vpon a certeyn nyght,
 Be on accord / shal warly taken kepe,
 Fader / brother / *and* husbond in her slepe, 3168
 With knyvēs sharpe / *and* rasourēs* kene
 Kytt her throtēs / in that' mortal tene ;
 Vnto this fyn /, as bochas tellē can,
 In al that' londe / be not' founde a man, 3172
 But' slayn echon / to þis conclusioun
 That' wymmen / myght' han domynacioun
 In þat kyngdam / to regne at libertē
 And on no partie / Interrupted be. 3176
 Ipsiphyle But for þis lady / passing' debonayre,
 To þis mordre / was froward' *and* contrayre,
 saved her father, Kept' her fader / þat' he was not' slawe
 But' fro þe deth / preservēd *and* wiþdrawe, 3180
3155. so faire vpon] full faire on Ba. 3156. Isyphile] Isophilee E₂. 3160. hym] to him C. T₂. E₂. to her P. hooly al the] al the hole C. T₂. P. E₂. he þe trew S. 3161. why] how C. T₂. P. E₂. that] *om.* C. Ba. 3162. wolde] wold Ar. M. Ad₁. 3164. the] *om.* Du. 3165. contrayr Ar. G. Bo. T₁. I. M. Di. E₂. Ap. contrarie Du. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂. P. L₂. ai] *om.* E₂. 3167. on] *om.* Ra. shal warly] warly shal Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. T₂. warli shal Ra. Ba. warly] verraly Du. verly P. taken Ar. takyn Ap. take Bo. G. *the rest.* 3168. husbond Ar. S. L₂. husbondes G. Bo. *and all the other M.* in her] while þei Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3169. rasours Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. rasoures L₁. 31. kitte Bo. M. Ad₁. kutte C. 3172. al] *om.* M. Di. founde] lefte T₁. 31. domynacioun] þe domynacyon Ad₁. 3175. in Ar. before In, is A crossed throu. 3176. on] in Lb. C. partie] parties E₂. parte Ra. 3178. mordre] matere. was froward *and*] frowarde was *and* M. Di.

For which, alas ! / she fleddē þe contrè,
 And of a pyrat / taken in the see,
 To kyng lygurgus / brouht In al her drede.
 And for her trouþ / and her wommanhede
 To hir he took / his 3onge child to kepe,
 which in the herber / alloñē* she left slepe
 whan Tydeus / she broghte to the welle.

fled,

was captured,

[leaf 53, back]

3184 taken to Ly-
curgus, and
had charge of
his boy.

And by Iason / somē bookis telle
 That this lady / haddē sonēs two,
 whan that he / and hereules also
 Toward Colchos / by hir' contrè Cam
 For tacomplyssh / þe conquest of the Ram.
 But who that lyst / by *and* by to se
 The story hool / of this* ysyphylè,
 Hir fadres name / of which also I wante*,
 Thouh somē seyn / he namēd was Thoante,

3188 ¶ Iason.

3192 ¶ Hercules.
¶ ysyphyle.
If you want to
see Ipsiphyle's
story,

3196

And somē bokēs · vermes ek hym* calle :
 But to knowe / þe auenturēs alle
 Of þis lady · Isyphilè the faire,
 So feithful ay / and inly debonayre,
 Lok on the book / that Ioñin Bochas made
 Whilom of wommen / with rethorikēs glade,
 And directe / be ful sonereyn style
 To fayrē* Ianē / the queen of Cecile.
 Rede ther the rubrich / of ysyphylè,

3200

look in Boc-
caccio's Book
of Illustrious
Women.

3204

3181. fledde Bo. fled M. Ad₁. 3184. trouthe M. Ad₁. trouþ Ar. Bo.
 and] and for I₁. Ad₂. her] om. Bo. wommanhede T₁. M. Ad₁. wymman-
 hede Bo. 3185. To] T Ar. yong Bo. M. yonge Ad₁. child] sone M. Di.
 3186. Which in] That in T₂. Withynne Ra. Ba. therber T₁. M. C. the herber
 Bo. Ad₁. Ra. allone Bo. M. Ad₁. allon Ar. she] om. Bo. T₁. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁.
 Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. left] lete L₂. allone she left] she left allone C. T₂. P. E₂.
 slepe] aslepe L₁. Ad₂. I. S. Ap. to slepe G. M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. T₂. P. E₂. 3187.
 brought Bo. Ad₁. 3188. som bokēs Bo. M. Ad₁. 3192. tacomplyssh
 Bo. M. Ad₁. 3193. to] for to Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. 3194. of Ar. G. C. T₂.
 P. E₂. L₂. Ap. of þis Bo. *and the rest*. 3195. wante] wente Ar. E₁. S. wont T₁. Lb.
 write E₂. 3196. som Bo. M. Ad₁. som Men I. P. Thoante] Thorite E₂. 3197.
 vermes] Vermos E₂. L₂. Vormes P. Sermes Ad₂. I. hym] hem Ar. 3203.
 ful] om. Ra. Ba. 3204. faire Bo. M. Ad₁. fayr Ar. Iane] Ihan Ba. the] om.
 Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. P. Vnto Jane the fayr quene of Cecile T₂. 3205. Rede]
 Redeth P. rubrich Ar. G. S. Ap. Rubrik C. T₂. E₂. Rebrike P. rubrissh Bo.
 and the rest.

	Of her trouthe / and her hegh bountè, Ful craftily compilèd for her sake.	
She is taken back to the	And whan that she hap her lieuë take	3208
	Of Adrastus /, homward in her weye Tydeus gan hyr to conveye,	
garden by Tideus,	To* the gardyne / til* she is repeyred. But now, allas ! my mater disespeyred	3212
[leaf 54]	Of alle Ioye / and of alle* welfulnesse, And destitut / of myrth <i>and</i> alle gladnesse, For now of woo / gynnè þe sharpë shoures.	
and finds Lycurgus's boy dead, ¶ How þe child was slayn wip the Serpent. poisonsd by a serpent.	For this lady / fond among the floures her litil child / turnèd vp þe face, Slayn of a serpent / in þe seluë place, hyr tailë* burlyd / with skalis siluer-shene.	3216
	The Venym / was / so persyng ^r <i>and</i> so kene, So perilous ek / the mortal violence Causèd, allas ! / thorgh her long absence : She was to slouh / homward forto hie.	3220
	But now can she / but wepe, wayle, <i>and</i> crye ; Now can she nouht / but sighen and compleyn And wofully wryng ^r her handys tweyn, Dedly of look / pal of face and chere ;	3224
Ipsiphyle tears her hair,	And gan to rende / her giltë* tresses clere,	3228

3206. trouthe Bo. and Ar. G. Ra. Ba. T₂. P. L₂. Ap. and of Bo. *and the rest* hegh] *om.* Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. 3207. compiled Bo. 3208. that *om.* S. hap her lieue] her leve hath E₂. P. 3210. gan] gan godely M. Di 3211. To] Til Ar. G. Lb. Ba. gardeyn Bo. M. Ad₁. til] to Ar. G. that Ba 3212. is despeyred G. is dispayred Ad₂. I. C. T₂. P. E₂. Ro. dispeire Ad₁. S. ys disapayred L₁. disespeyred Ar. Bo. *and the rest.* 3213. *second alle om.* Ar. G. L₂. Ro. Ap. welfulnesse Ar. G. T₁. Ad₁. Ra. C. L₂. Ro. Ap. wilfulness Bo. *and the rest (in P. wilfulness has been erased, and replaced by gladnesse by later hand).* 3214. of myrth] of all myrth L₁. E₂. and alle] and of all Ll and of M. Di. Ra. Ba. S. C. and Ad₁. I₂. Ro.³ And restitute of all hevynesse P (*the last word written by later hand, on erasure*). 3215. gynnyn Bo. M. Ad₁. gynnet Di. beginne E₂. 3216. fond] found L₁. Lb. E₁. T₂. P. I₂. Ro. hath founde E 3217. litil] *om.* S. þe] his Ba. the fight (*sic*) T₂. 3218. þe selue Ar. Ap. tl selfe L₁. Di. I. E₁. P. E₂. Ap. the self Bo. G. T₁. Dn. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. C. T₂. tl same Ba. S. L₂. Ro. 3219. hyr] hy Ar. His Ro. Ap. taile Bo. M. Ad₁. ta Ar. burlyd] burled vp P. Curlyde Ro. 3224. now] nought L₂. can] gane R wepe wayle and crye] waile wepe and crye M. Di. Ra. Ba. S. C. P. wayle] *om.* I 3225. Now can she nouht] But nov she can nought Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Now can she L₁. Nought can she L₂. Nowe can P. but] *om.* Ap. sighen] wayle I 3227. face] hir face S. 3228. gilt Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. gylty P. clere] of here S

And oftē sith she gan to seyn, "allas!
O wooful wreech / vnhappy in this cas,
What^t shal I don / or whider may I tourne?

For þis the fyn / ʒif I her* soiourne, 3232

I woot^t right^t wel / I may it^t not^t eskape

The pitous fatē / þat^t is for me shape.

Socour is non / nor ther may be non red,

lich my desert^t / but^t that^t I mot^t be ded; 3236

says she must
die, as, by her
neglect,

For thorhe my slouth / and my neelygence

I haue, allas! don so gret^t offence

That^t my gilt^t /, I may it^t nat^t excuse,

Shal to the kyng^t / of treson me accuse. 3240

Thorgh my defeaute / *and* slouthē* bothē* two,

His sone is ded / *and* his heir also,

which he louēd mor than al his good :

Lycurgus's heir
is kild.
[leaf 54, back]

For tresour noñ / so nygh his hertē stood, 3244

Nor was so depē / graue / in his corage :

That^t he is likly to fallen in a Rage

whan it^t is so, myn odious offence

Reported be vnto his audience; 3248

So inportable shal be his hevynesse.

And wel woot^t I / in verrey sothfastnesse,

The Queen too

That^t, whan the quenē* / hath this þing^t espied,

To myn excus / It may nat^t be denyed, 3252

3229. sith] sithes Ba. sythis L₂. she] *om.* C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. she gan to] gan she Bo. T₁. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. 3231. may Ar. L₂. Ap. shal Bo. *and the rest.* tourne] gone P (: soierne). 3232. *om.* in Ba. 3232. pis] þis is Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ra. S. P. L₂. Ro. the] *om.* Ra. her] ther Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. E₁. ʒif I her] of my S. 3233. right] it M. Di. P. Ro. it] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. not] no Bo. 3235. is] is there M. Di. Ad₂. I. C. T₂. P. E₂. nor] ner Bo. Du. Ra. Ba. S. P. ne T₁. M. Di. C. T₂. E₂. nother Lb. for Ro. ther] *om.* E₂. may be] is T₁. none other E₂. red] drede T₁; Ar. *has rede with the final e underdotted.* 3236. that] *om.* L₂. Ro. mot] mvtt Ap. most L₁. C. Ro. must Ba. S. P. L₂. 3237. slouthē M. Ad₁. slouth Bo. necligence Ra. negligence Bo. M. Ad₁. 3238. so] to C. T₂. P. E₂. 3239. Ar. *has a second pause-bar after it.* 3241. slouthē M. Ad₁. slouth Ar. Bo. bothe M. Ad₁. both Ar. Bo. 3242. *in* Ar. *after is is an l, underdotted.* 3243. which] Which that P. loued] loueth E₁. 3244. hert Bo. Ad₁. 3246. he] *om.* Lb. fallen Ar. G. L₁. Ra. Ba. C. T₂. E₂. Ap. falle Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. P. L₂. Ro. likly to falle] fall lykly P. in a] in such a Ad₁. Ad₂. in such I. 3251. quene (queen Bo.))king Ar. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. P. E₂. this ping] *om.* Bo. ping] *om.* T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. hath this ping] this thing hath C. T₂. this hath Lb.

- I doutē it not / ther geyneth no pytē,
 will be revenged on her, With-out respit / she wil avengēd be
 On me, allas ! / as I ha deserued ;
 That fro the deth / I may not be preserued 3256
 Nowther be bille / ne supplicacioun ;
 For the rage / of my transgressioun
 and demand her death. Requereth deth / and noñ other mede."
 And thus, allas ! she, quaking in her drede, 3260
 Non other helpe / nor remedyē* kan,
 She runs back to the Greeks. But dreynt in sorow / to þe Grekēs Ran,
 Of hertly woo / face and chere disteyned
 And her chekes with wepyng al bereynynd, 3264
 Ipsiphyle tells Tideus In hir affray / distracte *and* furious.
 To-forn alle / she cam to Tydeus,
 And fille on knees / *and* gan her compleynt mak,
 Toldē pleyonly / that for grekēs sake 3268
 She mot be ded / and shortly in substaunce
 Rehersing hym the grete of her greuauunce :
 that a serpent has kild Lycurgus's boy, and that she is in peril.
 First how be traynys of a fals serpent
 (leaf 55) The child was slawē / whil she was absent ; 3272
 In what disioynte / and peril that she stood.
 And whan that he her meschief vnderstood,
 Tideus promises to help her, Vnto hire ful knyghtly he behiht
 To help and forther / al that euere he myght, 3276
 hir pitous woo / to stynten and appese.
 And forto fynde / vnto hir dissesse
 Hasty confort, he went a ful gret pas

3254. she] he Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. will] shall T₁. 3257. Nowthe
 Neither Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. P. bille] wille Di. ne]
 by Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ba. nor Ra. nor bi I. C. T₂. E₂. 3260. she] om. Bo. T₁. D
 L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. quaking] quakith Ad₂. P. L₂. R
 3261. remedy Ar. remedie Bo. M. Ad₁. 3262. dreynt] dreynet Lb. drant
 adreynt P. sorow] sorw M. C. teres Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3268. Tolde] And tolde P
 L₂. Ro. grekes] þe grekes Lb. S. 3270. hym] om. Bo. the grete] the greif R
 the chefe Ba. the grounde E₂. the grete cause P (cause of her Greuance *writt*
by a later hand, on erasure). of her] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3271. First how] H
 first Du. 3272. slawē] slayn Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. L₂. Ro (sclayne). 327
 disioynte] distresse Ad₂. distreyat I. 3274. he] Tydeus Ro. Ap. And wh
 he herd that mischeffe and vndrestood Ba. 3278. fynde Ar. Bo. *and the re*
except fynd S. L₂.

To Adrastus / and told hym al the cas 3280 and tells
 Of þis vnhappy / wooful aventure, Adrastus,
 Beseching hym to don his bysy cure,
 As he was bound / of equitye *and* riȝt,
 And aduerten / and to han a siȝt 3284
 How she qwit her to Grekës her to-forñ
 whan they wer likly / forto haue* be lorn,
 The socour voide of her wommanhede :
 For which he most of knyghthod taken hede 3288
 To remedien þis vnhappy thingt.

And Adrastus / lik a worthy kyngt
 Taquyt hym-silf /, the story makeþ mynð, who resolves to
 To thys lady wille nat be found vnkyndt, 3292 aid Ipsiphyle.
 Neither for cost / nor for no travaylle,
 But bysy was / in al þat myght availle
 To hir socour / considered alle þingges,
 And by thavice / of alle þe worthy kyngges 3296 The Greeks
 Of Grekës lond / þei be accorded thus, agree to appeal
 Prynces, Dukës / and worthy Tydeus, to Lycurgus.
 To hold her way / and al at onys ryde
 To lygurgus / dwelling ther be-syde, 3300
 Of on entent / ȝif they may purchase
 In eny wisë / forto getë grace
 For this lady, Callëd ysiphilë ;
 They wold assayë* ȝif it myghte be. 3304 [leaf 55, back]

And to his paleys ful ryal bylt of stoñ,

3283. he] *om.* Du. 3284. And] *om.* P. aduerten] aduert L₂. Ro. to aduerten
 M. Di. P. T₂. eke aduertise E₂. and to] and T₂. 3286. whan] That Lb. C. T₂.
 P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. they] *om.* Lb. P. forto] to M. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. C. T₂. E₂. L₂.
 elles to Lb. P. ha Ar. C. Ap. haue Bo. M. Ad₁. lorn] forlorne Lb. M. Di. C. T₂.
 L₂. 3288. For] Of Bo. Du. 3292. thys] thy Ar. Ap. Ar. *has a pause-bar*
after wille. 3293. Neither . nor Ar. Bo. Du. L₁. Lb. Ra. Nother . nor E₁. C.
 T₂. L₂. Ap. Neither . ne T₁. Ba. S. P. E₂. Nouthir . ne Ro. Neither . neither
 Ad₁. Neithir . nouthir Ad₂. I. Nor . nor M. Di. for] *om.* Ba. no] *om.* M. Di.
 Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. C. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. 3295. his] peyro Lb. considered]
 considreth Ad₂. I. considre S. concydere Ro. 3298. and] and with hem
 Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. worthy] *om.* Lb. T₂. P. E₂. Ap. 3299. al] *om.*
 Du. al at onys] altonys Ar. 3304. assaye Bo. Ad₁. assay Ar. M. 3305. his
 paleys] þis place L₁. ful ryal bylt] full rially bylt Lb. E₂. ryght ryally bild S.
 for royallie bilt Ba. roiall bylte P. wel bilded Ad₂. I. bilte L₁. of stone] of
 lyne and stone L₁. P.

The Greeks
ride to Lycurgus's palace.

The worthy Grekes / cam ryding^e euerichon,
Euery lord ful fresshly on his stede.

And lygurgus / example of manlihede,

3308

Anon as he knewe of her comyng^e,

Ta quy^t hym-silf / lich a gentil kyng^e,

Ageyn hem went / to mete hem on the way,

¶ How Adrastus
and all thestatys
of Grekis prouiden
lygurgus for þe
lif of ysyphele.

Ful wel byseyn / and in ful good array,

3311

Receyvyng^e hem with a ful kyngly chere.

And to Adrastus seid, as 3e shul here,

He welcomes
them,

¶ "Cosyn *," quod he / and gan hym to enbrace,

"3e be welcome / to 3oure ownē place,

3311

Thankyng^e hertly to 3our^e hegh noblesse

That^e so goodly / of 3our^e gentillesse

Towardes me / 3e list^e 3ou to acquite,

3oure-silf þis day / 3our cosyn to visite,

332

In this castel to takē 3oure loggyng^e;

and is delighted
that they've
come.

That^e neuer 3it^e / I was so glad of thyng^e

In * al my lif / and therto her my trouth.

And ouermore* / ther shal be no slouth

332

He'll put the
lords in rooms,

That^e the Chambres / and the largē tours

Shal be delyuered / to 3our herberioures;

That^e euery lord / as he is of degre,

Vnto his loggyng^e / shal assignēd be.

332

3oure officeres* / lat^e hem-silf* devise

3308. example] ensauple T₁. L₁. of] for Ra. Ba. S. manlihede] manhede I Ad₂. Ra. Ba. Ro. P (altered to manhode by late hand). manhode Lb. 330 knewe] kneuh Ra. knoweth Ba. 3310. Ta quy^t Bo. Ad₁. To quyte M. acquyte Ra. 3312. Ful wel] Right wel M. Di. in] in a Bo. Lb. C. T₂. in ryght Ap. om. Lb. P. E₂. good] riche Ro. array] ray C. ful good] a gret 3313. with] in C. T₂. ful] om. G. T₁. kyngly Ar. T₁. M. Ra. E₁. T₂. R knightly Bo. G. and the rest. 3314. Ar. has a pause-bar after Adrastus. 331 Cosyn] Cosy Ar. Ra. embrace Bo. Ad₁. embrace M. 3317. hegh] om. Ra. F 3318. goodly] om. I. 3our] your hie Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. S. your good hih I. ye gret C. 3319. Towardes Ar. Bo. and all, except Toward Ba. C. 3ou] now you I nowe Ro. not I₂. om. S. to] so Lb. Ra. Ba. to acquite] ta quyte Bo. M. E₁. 332 That] For Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. I was] was I T₁. L₁. That I was so glad neuere y of thing Ad₁. I. Ad₂ (yit nevir). 3323. In] An Ar. And E₁. 3324. ouermore T₁. M. Di. Ad₁. I. C. Ro. ouermore Ar. more over I₁. Ad₂. enuer more Bo. a the rest. 3328. shal assigned Ar. G. L₂. Ro. Ap. assigned shal Bo. and the rest 3329. officeres Lb. officeres Ra. officers Ar. Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. hemself Bo. I M. Ad₁. them-self L₂. hym-silf Ar.

- þif the howsyng^t / may largely suffice
 To þow and þourës / strecchen *and* atteyn,
 That non estaat^t / haue* causë to compleyn. 3332
 And alle þour hoost^t / logged her be-syde,
 which in Tentys / vpon þou abide, [leaf 56]
 lat hem fette / be myn auctoritë, and feed their
 Vitayle ynoh / her in my Citë. 3336 men in tents.
- ¶ Quod Adrastus / "that^t is nat^t our^t entent^t, 3340 Adrastus says
 Nor on no parte / cause of oure comyng^t.
 For we be come al for anoþer thyng^t, they want an-
 A certeyn gift^t / of þou to requere, other gift,
 Benygnely / 3if 3e list^t to here, 3344
 which may Grekës / passyngly availle,
 Of our* request / 3if* that^t 3e nat^t ne faille, but daren't
 which we dar not / opynly expresse, name it till he
 with-outë that^t 3e wold / of gentillesse, 3348 promises to
 3oure graunt^t aforn / conferme *and* ratefye. grant it.
 Than wer we bold / it^t to specifice."

3330. howsyng] haunsinge Lb. household Ba. may largely] largely may Lb.
 T₂. P. E₂. Ro. largely] large Ra. 3331. youres M. Ad₁. yours Bo. 3332.
 non] ony Lb. any P. ha Ar. Ap. haue Du. M. Ad₁. Ra. hath Bo. 3333. þour]
 his Du. hooste Bo. Ra. Ost Ad₁. logged] om. Ba. 3334. which in] Within
 Ra. Ba. L₂. Ro. in Tentys] ententifly Lb. T₂. P. E₂. C (intentifly). vpon] om.
 Ra. Ba. abide] to abide Ra. Ba. S. L₂. Ro. 3336. ynogh Bo. ynow M.
 y-nov Ad₁. 3337. socour Ar. socoure Bo. M. Ad₁ (the final e added above the
 line by the same hand). socour hem Ar. L₂. Ro. Ap. hem socoure Bo. G. and
 the rest. or] and Di. S. P. L₂. Ro. 3338. a Ar. o Bo. M. Ad₁. 3339. ful]
 fully Ba. 3341. on] in E₁. S. of Ba. om. T₁. Lb. M. Ad₂. I. C. T₂. P. E₂.
 no] oon Ba. parte Ar. Bo. Du. Di. Ad₁. P. E₂. L₂. part T₁. Lb. M. S. C. T₂.
 parti Ra. partye G. Ba. E₁. om. Ad₂. I. on no parte] percele Ro. 3344.
 Benygnely Bo. M. Ad₂. I. beningly Ad₁. 3e M. Ad₂. I. C. you Bo. Ad₁.
 3345. passyngly] passyng G. L₁. Ba. 3346. our. ye T₁. Du. Ad₂. I. S (Stowce
 has writen your but crossed out y). þour. 3e Ar. G. Bo. M. Di. Ad₁. E₁. our.
 we Lb. Ra. Ba. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. your L₁ (om. 3e or we) (see Notes).
 request Bo. M. Ad₁. 3if that (in no MS.)] that Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁.
 E₁. S. yf Lb. Ra. Ba. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. that yf Ad₂. I. 3e nat ne] nat
 ye Ad₁. nat ne faille] not fayle G. Lb. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. P. L₂. Ro. not vs fayll S.
 do not faile E₂. may not fayle L₁. 3348. Ar. has a pause-bar also after with-outë.
 3e] we T₂. wold] wil C. E₂. gentillesse] your gentillesse E₂. gretnesse Ba.
 3350. specifice] especifie Bo. Du.

Lycurgus says
he'll give em
anything but
his life,

his son and his
wife.

Then a man
comes in,

[leaf 56, back]

and says the
King's son

has been stung
to death by a
serpent.

Quod lygurgus / "what-euer thyng^t it be,
Nouht^t exceþtid / but^t only þinggës thre : 335
¶ The first^t is this / it^t touchë* nat^t my lif,
My 3onge sonë, pleynly, nor my wyf ;
Take al my good / or what^t 3e list^t provyde
Of my tresour / and sette pies thre a-syde, 335
Al the surplus / I count^t nat^t at^t a myte."
Than Adrastus / astounyd was a lyte
whan lygurgus / in conclusioun,
Of his sonë / made excepcioun. 336
And whilis they / entreten þus yfere,
Ther cam forth on / with a wooful chere,
Of face and look / pal and no-thing^t rede,
A-lowdë crieth / "the kyngës* sone is dode, 336
Allas the whyl ! / that^t whilom was so fayr,
After lygurgus / born forto ben hayr ;
The which, alas ! / hath 3olden vp the brethⁿ,
Of a Serpent / stonge to the deth 336
And with his woundë* / newë*, fressh and grene,
In therber lith / that pitë is to sene,
And hath so leyne / almost^t al this day ;"

3351. what-euer thyng Ar. Ap. L₂. Ro. what þing euer Bo. and the rest, except
what thyng þat euer P. what þat euer thyng G. 3352. exceptid] except G. Ad.
I. Ba. L₂. 3353. is this it] is þat L₂. touche M. Ap. touch Ar. Ra. touchit
Bo. Du. Ad₁. E₁. L₂. Ro. 3354. yonge Ad₁. yong Bo. M. om. C. nor] ne Bo.
T₁. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. E₁. S. P. nother C. and Du. L₂. Ro. 3355. ye Bo. M.
you Ad₁. 3357. surplus] surpluys T₂. surplice Lb. remnont P. count] compt
E₂. covyte L₂. at] om. Di. I. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. 3358. astonyed M.
astoneied Ad₁. astoned T₂. stunyed Bo. Lb. Ra. Ba. was] not L₂. Ro. 3361
whilis T₁. whiles Ad₁. while M. whils Bo. whil Ra. om. Du. entreten þu
Ar. G. Ro. (entrete). Ap. (entrete). þus entreten Bo. Du. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba.
E₁. S. entretid thus L₂. thus entretiden T₁. treten thus M. Di. trete thus Lb. C.
T₂. P. E₂. in feer Bo. 3362. Ther] om. Ro. cam Bo. come M. Ad₁. a] om. Lb. P.
wooful] ful woful Ad₁. Ad₂. I. rewful Ba. sorful C. dredful T₂. 3363. and look
of loke Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. 3364. A-lowde] and a-loud
Bo. And lowde G. Lb. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. C. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. crieth] cried Ra. Ba.
C. T₂. kynges M. Ad₁. kynges Bo. kyng Ar. 3366. forto ben Ar. G. T₁. Du.
L₁. Ra. E₁. S. Ap. to haue ben Bo. forto have be Ba. to ben M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂.
I. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. to Lb. hayr] his heir Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. E₂. 3368. stong
Ap. stong T₂. E₂. L₂. stongyng I. stongen Bo. G. and the rest. to] vnto Bo. T₁.
Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. T₂. E₂. the] om. Di. 3369. wounde Bo.
Ad₁. wound Ar. M. woundis Ra. Ba. newe T₁. E₁. new Ar. M. Ad₁. now Bo.
newe fressh] fresh new Ra. Ba. L₂. Ro. 3370. lith] om. T₂. that] om. Bo. T₁.
Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. pite] pitous Ra. is] it is S. to] om. Du.
3371. leyen Bo. layn M. Ad₁. lien Ba.

- 'hat whan lygurgus / herdē* this affray, 3372 *Lycurgus weeps for his son's death.*
 and wist his child was ded *and* hath no mo,
 ytil wonder / thogh that he were wo.
 For sodeynly / the inportable smerte
 Can anon / and hent* hym by the herte 3376
 That, for constreynt / of his dedly peyne,
 Thorgh-oute he felte koruen euery veyne.
 The ragē gan myne in hym so depe
 That he can not but sighē* / sobbe, *and* wepe. 3380
 And with the noyse / and lamentacioun
 The qwen distrauht / is descendid doun. *His queen*
 And whan she knewe / the* groundē of al this sorowe,
 hit neded* her no teerēs / forto borowe 3384
 But twenty tymē ny* vpon a rowe
 A-swoune she fille / vnto þe grounde lowe ; *swoons,*
 And stoundē-melē* / for this hegh meschaunce,
 Stille as ston / she lyggeth in a Traunce. 3388 *and lies in a trance.*
 ¶ And whan the child / into the courte was brouht
 To-fore lygurgus / allas ! I wite hym nought,
 Vpon the cors / with a mortal face,
 he Fil atonys / and gan it to embrace, 3392 *The boy's corpse is brought in.*

3372. That] Than Ra. Ba. And Lb. L₂. Ro. But S. E₂. herde Bo. Ad₁. herd Ar.
 M. harde E₁. T₂. this] al þis Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. of this Ba. affray] om. Ba. 3373.
 wist] wist than T₁. hath Ar. Ap. hat G. had Bo. *and all the other MSS.* 3374.
 that] om. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. P. he] his hert S. were] was T₂. E₂. Ap. 3376.
 hente Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. rent Ar. G. Bo. T₁.
 Du. L₁. M. Di. Ap. 3379. myne] gynne L₂. gyne Ro. in hym] on hym Lb.
 M. Di. C. T₂. hym Ra. 3380. can] coude E₂. not] om. Ra. sighe M. Ad₁.
 sigh Ar. Bo. om. T₂. sobbe] om. Ad₂. I. L₂. sighe sobbe and wepe] sobbe sighe
 and wepe Lb. Ba. P. E₂. sorwe sighe and wepe C. 3382. distrauht] distracte
 Ro. 3383. And] om. L₂. Ro. the] om. Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ra. Ba. E₁.
 C. T₂. Ap. sorowe] sorw M. (: borw). 3384. neded Du. Lb. M. Di. P. E₂. Ap.
 nede Ar. Bo. E₁. nedeth T₁. *and the rest.* her no] hir nat Ad₁. nat hir Ad₂. I.
 forto] to S. T₂. 3385. tyme] tymes L₁. Ba. S. om. Ad₂. I. ny Bo. T₁. M.
 nygh L₁. nyze Di. by Ar. G. Ad₁. I. E₁. S. Ap. be Ad₂. bi and bi Ra. Ba. om.
 Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. a rowe] A throwe Ro. 3386. A-swoune] Aswound
 E₂. vnto] to Lb. M. Di. C. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. vpon Ba. grounde Bo. M.
 ground Ad₁. erthe Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. 3387. stound-mele Ar. Ad₁.
 stoundemele Bo. stoundemel M. 3388. ston] a stoon Di. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. S.
 lyggeth Ar. Bo. T₁. Ap. lyeth M. *and the rest.* 3389. And] But E₂. the
 child] it Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. this Ba. into the] into Bo. Du. E₂. the child
 into the courte was] into the court it was Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. (this). it into the
 court was I. E₁. into þe court was it S. 3391. the] þat Lb. 3392. it] om. Ba.
 to embrace M. to embrace Bo. Ad₁. tenbrace T₁.

- [leaf 57] Soorü* Grype / and ageyn vpsterte ;
 That wñan Adrastus / gan this thyng^r aduerte,
 Of kyngly routh / and compassioun
 From his eyen / the teerës fillë douñ 336
 Ek kyngges / Dukës, that^r aboutë* stood,
 Only of pitë / which is in gentyl blood,
 No power hadde / the water to restreyñ
 That^r on her chekës / doune bygan to reyñ. 340
 But^r al a day / woldë* not^r suffice
 Alle her sorowes / in ordre to devise,
 First^r of the kyng^r / and of the quene also :
 To tellen aH / I shuldë* neuer ha do, 344
 Not in the space / almost^r of an hour.
 But whan the stormës / and þe sharpë* shour
 Of her wepyng^r / was somewhat ouergoñ,
 The lytil cors / was grauen vnder stoñ. 348
 ¶ And Adrastus / in þe samë tide
 Iygurgus took / a litil out aside,
 And ful wisely / with his prudent^r spech,
 The qwenë* present^r / gan hym forto tech 342
 That^r so to sorowe / awayllë may right noght,
 To mordre hym-silf / with his ownë thouht,
3393. Soore Lb. Sore Bo. M. Ad₁. Soor Ar. to gripe Bo. and all, except Gr. Ar. G. L₂. Ro. Ap. 3394. That] Than T₁. Ad₂. I. E₂. Ro. thyng] om. Ba. gan this thyng] this thyng gan Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂ (can). aduerte] advart^r (: vpstart). 3395. kyngly] kyndly Di. knyghtly L₂. routhe Bo. M. A₁. ruthe L₂. 3396. the] there E₁. down] a-doun Du. Lb. Di. I. C. T₂. 3397. kyngges] princes M. Di. Dukes] and dukes Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. abo Bo. M. Ad₁. about Ar. 3398. of] for Ra. om. S. which Ar. G. L₂. Ro. 3399. water] teeres Lb. A₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. restreyñ] constreyne L₂. 3400. I] om. Bo. bygan] gan Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. Ra. Ba (can). to] om. Ra. Ba. 3401. aday Ar. the day Ra. Ba. wolde Bo. wold Ar. M. Ad₁. wyll L₂. 3402. second of] om. Lb. M. Di. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. Ap. kyng . quene] quen. kynges Ro. 3404. tellen] telle Lb. P. S. Ro (tele). shulde Bo. shuld Ar. sh M. Ad₁. ha Ar. Ad₂. I. Ra. haue a Di. haue Bo. and the rest. 3406. sharpe sharp Ar. M. Ad₁. teary E₂. om. Ra. Ba. 3407 to 3590 lost in Ro. 3408. grauen] om. Ad₂. vnderston Ar. ston] a ston Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3409 to the end of the poem lost in 1. 3410. a litil] a lite Bo. Du. M. Di. om. L₁. a litil out] oute a litil C. 3412. qv Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. gan] thus gan C. forto] to C. om. S. 3413. so] om. A₁. Ad₂. I. 3414 in Ad₁ is omitted at its right place and stands at the bottom of col. of leaf 25, front ; in the original of Ad₂ and I. it has been replaced by a new l. composed to rhyme with 3413, viz. But best remedie / to put it out of thou. 3414. hym-silf] them-self S. with] in Ra. S.
- I should never have done, if I tried to describe their sorrow.
- The boy is buried.
- Adrastus reminds Lycurgus and his wife

with loos of deth / no man may recure
 though he in woo / perpetuelly endure ; 3416
 al helpeth nat / whan the soule is go.
 And our lif her, who taketh* hed ther-to,
 is but an exile / and a pilgrimage,
 ful of torment / and of bitter Rage, 3420
 such a See · rennyng to and fro,
 [leaf 57, back]
 bywyng an ebbē / whan the flood is do,
 tytil space abidyng at the fulle :
 Of whos soiour / the popē ȝeueþ no bulle. 3424
 For* kyng is non, nor* duk, nor Emperour,
 that may hym shroude / ageyn þe fatal shour
 Of cruel deth / whan hym list manace
 to marke a man with his mortal mace. 3428
 Than geyneþ nat to his sauacioun
 Neyther Fraunchysē / nor proteccioun,
 And lit / or noght / may helpen in this caas
 sauffecondit / or Supersedyas. 3432
 For in this worlde / who so look a-right,
 is non so gret / of power nor of myght,
 Non so richē / shortly / nor so bold
 But* he mot dey / outhur* ȝongr or old. 3436
 And who in ȝouthē* / passeth þis passage,
 he is eskapēd / al the woodē* Rage,
 Al sorowe and trouble / of this present lyff,

¶ Ageynes deth
may be no recur.
that our life
is but a pil-
grimage ;

that no one can
avoid death :

all must die :

and those who
die young
are saved from
sorrow.

3415. Sith] Sayth L₁. Such Ra. Sith loos of deth] Ayenst dethe Lb. C. T₂. P.
 2. no man may] may be no Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. recure] recover P (: endure).
 3418. who] whos C. who so P. thus E₂. taketh] take Ar. G. T₂. P. 3422.
 lo] go Bo. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. S. C. 3423. the copyist of Ar. first wrote
 alle, but underdotted it, and added fulle. 3424. in T₁. pope yeueth no bulle has
 been erased ; the words are, however, still legible. 3425. For Lb. Ad₂. P. E₂. Nor
 Ar. Bo. and the rest, except ne T₂. is non] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Di. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba.
 S. non] om. M. Ad₁. E₁. nor duk] duk Ar. G. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂.
 ne duk S. no Duk Ra. nor Emperour] ne Emperoure L₁. Lb. E₁. P. E₂. L₂.
 3426. That] om. Ad₂. I. hym] om. Ad₁. may hym shroude] hym may shroude
 L₂. May nat shroude Ad₂. I. þe] þat L₁. Di. his Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. om. Ra. Ba.
 shour] heure L₁. our L₂. 3429. sauacioun] saluacioun Du. E₂. 3432.
 sauffecondit Ad₁. sauffecondyt Bo. Saff-condite Lb. Saue-conduyte E₁. either
 sauffecondyt M. Di (sauffecondit). 3433. whos luketh Bo. who lokith M. Ad₁.
 3436. But L₁. But that Lb. Ad₂. I. S. P. That Ar. Bo. and the rest. he] om.
 Ad₁. Ad₂. I. mot] most L₁. Lb. E₁. S. P. E₂. L₂. oyther Ar. eyther Bo. M.
 outhur Ad₁. outhur C. 3437. ȝouth Ar. Bo. 3438. wode Bo. M. wood Ar. Ad₁.

Repleneshed * with contek / werre and stryff, 344
 which seeld or neuere / stont in Suertè.
 Wher-for best is, as semeth vnto me,
 No man gruchè * / but, of hegh prudence,
 The sonde of goddis / tak in pacience. 344
 And 3e that ben so wis / and manly to,
 3oure-silf to drowne in torment and in woo
 For loos of thyng / 3if * that 3e list to se,
 which in no wisè may recurèd be, 344
 Is gret foly and vndiscreccioun."

So Lyncurgus
 and his wife
 should take in
 patience what
 the Gods send.

Adrastus then
 begs mercy for
 Ipsiphyle,

[leaf 58]

who has not
 offended
 wilfully.

And thus Adrastus / hath conveyèd douñ
 The substaunce hool / of that he wolde seye :
 Til that he fond / a tymè forto preye 345
 Conuenyent / for ysyphilee,
 Bysechyng hym forto han pitè
 Of pat she hath offended his highnesse,
 Not wilfully / but of reklesnesse : 345
 First pat he wolde / his doomès so * dyvide,
 Mercy preferre / and settè * right a-side,
 At the * request and preier of hem alle,
 Of this vnhappy / and meschief that is falle 346

3440. Replenished] Repleveshed Ar. G. repleuessed Bo. Repleuissshed C. R. plenysshed or Replenysshed M. Di. Ad₁. T₂. Replesshed Ad₂. I. Ra. replenshe T₁. Replenyshed Du. Lb. and the rest. 3441. suerte Bo. M. surte Ad 3442. as] om. Ra. Ba. semeth] it semeth Lb. M. Di. C. T₂. P. E₂. vnto] to M. C. om. Lb. Di. S. T₂. P. E₂. 3443. grucche Bo. M. Ad₁. grucch Ar. grug S. grugge L₂. to grucche T₂. hegh] his S. L₂. 3444. sonde] wyll S. godd Ar. G. C. T₂. god Bo. and the other MSS. of goddis tak] or god he take E₂. tal take yt L₂. 3446. 3our-silf Ar. Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. youre lyf Bo. and the rest torment] tournament L₁. tournament E₁. your-self to turment in anguysh and in v L₂. 3446 and 3447 om. in Ra. and Ba.; in Ra. 3445 reads: And ye that been so w and manli to se, and is followed by 3448: Sith in no wise recovered it may be; in Ba between 3444 and 3450 are three lines, viz.: Sith in noo wise recoverd it may bee And ye that ben so wise and so manlie to see Itt is grete perell foly and one destruccoun 3447. 3if that (in no MS.)] that Ar. G. E₁. S. if Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. C. pat yf Ad Ad₂. I. and Lb. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. om. L₁. to] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3448. which] Th C. T₂. P. E₂. recured] recoverid Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. P. L₂. may recured] recured m Ad₁. E₁. S. C. T₂. recoverid may Ad₂. I. 3449. Is] It is Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. I Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 3453. for] for faire M. Di. T₂. for worthi Ra. B 3455. pat] what Ba. offended] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. E₁. S. his] om. R this S. highnesse] hevenesse S. 3456. reklesnesse Bo. M. rekelsnesse A 3457. so] to Ar. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. om. Ra. Ba. dyvide] devoide (: aside) I. B deuoid Ra. 3458. sette Ad₁. M. set Ar. Bo. 3459. At pe Du. L₁. P. I Atte Bo. T₁. Ad₁. Ra. E₁. S. C. At Ar. and the rest. 3460. that is] so Ra. E falle] befallle Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂.

by hasty Rigour / nat' to do vengeance,
 but thynk afor / in his purvyauce,
 who to wrechës / doth mercy / in her drede,
 hal mercy fyndë / whan he hath most' nede :

3464

He who does
 mercy, shall
 find mercy.

and sith he hath power, myght, *and* space,
 at hym tak this lady / to his grace,
 for lak of routhë* / that' she nat' ne dye.

Let Ipsiphyle
 be forgiven.

But' tho the quenë / gan agayn replye

3468

¶ How the quen
 wil algate han
 þe serpent dede.

And platly seide / as in this matere,

Avayleth not' requeste / nor preyere,

Pytë, Mercy / nor remyssyoun,

But' ȝif it' be / by this condicioun

3472

But the Queen
 says,

That' the serpent, cause of al þis sorowe,

Thorgh her labour / lay his hed to borowe.

either the ser-
 pent or Ipsiphyle
 must die.

This is fynal / and vtter recompense

To fyndë gracë / for her gret' offence,

3476

Or ellis Shortly / sheedë* blood for blood.

And whan Grekys her answer vnderstood,

Al of accord' / in her beste wise,

Took on hem / this auenturous emprise,

3480

The Greeks
 hunt for the
 Serpent.

For loue only / of Ysyphylee ;

And gan to ryde / envyron þe contrè,

By hillës, valës / Rochës, and ek Cauës,

[leaf 58, back]

3461. nat] and nat Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. vengeance] no vengance M.
 Di. 3465. sith] syn Ra. he hath] ye haue Ra. Ba. myght] and myght Ra.
 3466. Lat hym tak] That ye will tak L₁. Receyveth Ra. Ba. to] vnto Bo. T₁.
 Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. C. T₂. into E₂. his] youre Ra. Ba. om.
 L₁. Ad₂. I. 3467. routhë Bo. M. Ad₁. routh Ar. nat] nov Ad₁. now Ad₂. I. S.
 nat ne] now nat Ra. ne] om. Bo. Lb. Ra. Ba. E₁. L₂. she nat ne] ne nat thus E₂.
 3468. tho] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3470. request Bo. M. Ad₁. nor Ad₁. ne Bo. M.
 3471. nor M. ne Bo. neither Ad₁. 3473. That] But Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M.
 Di. S. But if E₁. the] this L₂. þis] om. Lb. C. P. 3474. Thorgh] For Ad₁.
 Ad₂. I. her Ar. Ra. L₂. their Ba. his Bo. and the rest. lay] leyde Ad₂. I.
 3475. fynal] finaly Bo. Du. Ra. the final Di. vtter] the vtter M. Di. 3476.
 her] his Bo. Du. 3477. ellis] els L₂. om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
 Ra. Ba. E₁. S. Shortly] sothly T₁. sheed Ar. shede Bo. M. Ad₁. shedde P.
 first blood Ar. 3478. And] om. Ra. Ba. Grekys] þe Grekes Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di.
 Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. her] this Ra. her answer] this Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3479. Al] om. Lb.
 C. T₂. P. E₂. accord (Ar. G. L₁. L₂.)] oon accorde Bo. and the rest. 3480.
 auenturous] auentures Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. Ad₁. E₁. S. C. T₂. P. L₂. aventours Ad₂.
 I. 3481. loue] the loue T₂. of] of this Ra. Ba. 3482. gan Bo. gon M.
 Ad₁. 3483. vales] valeys C. vayles T₂. vales Roches] roches vales Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
 ek] om. E₂.

- In dycheis dirke / and in oldē gravis, 348
 By euery cooste / cerchyng^t vp and douñ :
 Til at the last / ful famous of renoun,
 Parthonolope The worthy knyght / parthonolopē
 ¶ How partho- was the first / that happed for * to Se 348
 nolope saugh þe
 Serpent.
 finds it, This hydous Serpent / by a Ryver-side,
 Gret and horrible / stern and ful of pride,
 Vndere a Rocchē* / by a banke lowe ;
 And in al hast / he bent a sturdy bowe, 349
 And ther-In sette an arowe* fylled kene,
 shoots it, And thorgh the body / spotted blew and grene,
 Ful myghtily he made it forto Glyde,
 Hent* out a swerde / hongyng^t be his syde, 349
 cuts off its head, Smoot of his hede / and anon it hent
 gives it to the Queen, And ther-with-al gan the Quene present,
 wherthorgh her sorowe parcel gan aswage.
 And thus, of prowessse / and of hegh corage, 350
 This manly man / parthonolopē
 and reconciles hath reconciled faire Isyphilee
 Ipsiphyle to her. Vnto gracē / fully of þe Quene,
 Hir Ire avoided* / and her oldē tene. 350
 Adrastus par- And by Adrastus mediacioun,
 dons Ipsiphyle, Kyng lygurgus / graunted a pardoun
 To this lady, that from al daunger fre,
 She was restorēd to her libertē, 350

3484. dirke Ad₁. derke Bo. derk M. 3486. atte last Bo. Ad₁. at last M
 3487. knyght] king Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3488. happed] happonde Lb. happenyde P
 for to Lb. C. T₂. E₂. to Ar. Bo. and the rest. 3491. roche Bo. M. Rocch Ar
 roch Ad₁. banke Bo. bank M. Ad₁. 3492. al] al the Ad₂. I. bent] hente Di
 Ba. E₁. C. T₂. L₂. 3493. a narowe Ar. 3496. The line begins with And in all th
 MSS. except Ar. G. L₂. Hent out] Rent out Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. E₁. L₂. 3499
 her sorowe] om. Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. parcel] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. gan] sh
 gan E₂. aswage] tasswage E₂. to aswage Lb. Ra. P. to swage C. T₂. 3500
 and of] and Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. C. 3501. parthonolope] this prothonolope C
 this Parthonolope T₁. E₂. 3504. avoided Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ra. Ba. S. L₂
 avoiden Ar. G. Ad₁. auoyed E₁. voyded Lb. C. T₂. E₂. voyde P. olde] om. G. Ra
 Ba. 3504 in Ad₁. is omitted at its right place, and stands at the bottom of th
 second column of the page, after l. 3522 ; in Ad₂. and I. it has been replaced by a ner
 line, to rhyme with 3503, viz. Off the offence / of hir pardouned to bene. 3507
 that] om. Lb. M. Di. C. T₂. P. E₂. daunger] damag S. in Ba. l. 3507, which
 is the bottom line of leaf 38 back, stops at To this ladie th ; after th a few
 letters seem to be erased, but most of the latter half of 3507 has never been
 written, the vellum being quite untouched here.

In his paleys / al her lif to dwelle.

Thogh Iohn Bochas / þe contrarie telle :

tho' Boeaccio
says she never

For this autour affermeþ /, out of dred

That, whan this child / was by the serpent ded, 3512

She durste not / for her gret offence

[leaf 59]
dared face Ly-
curgus,

Neuer after comen in presence

Of lygurgus /, but of intencioun

Fledde anon / out of that Region ;

3516 but fled from
Argos.

Att herte she took / the child's deth so sore.

what fille of hir* / I fyndē* can no more

Than 3e han herd / afor me specifye.

And the kyngdam / but 3if bookys lye,

3520

Of lygurgus / was ycallē Trace.

¶ Nota de Li-
urgo Rege
tracce.

And, as I rede in an other place,

He was þe samē myghty Champioun,

To Athenes / that kam with Palamoun

3524

Lycurgus came
to Athens with
Palamon against
Arcite.
(See Chaucer's
Knight's Tale.)

Ageyne his brother / that callē was arcyte,

Lad in his chaar / with fourē* boolys whyte,

Vpon his hed / a wreth of gold ful fyn.

And I fynd ek / how bachus, god of wyñ,

3528

¶ Bachus deus
vini.

with this kyng / was whilom at debat,

Only for he / pompous and Elat,

As he destroyd
Bacchus's vines,

Destructioun / didē* to his vynys,

3509. his] hir Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. þis G. 3510.
Iohn Bochas þe contrarie] the contrarie Iohn Bokas Ba. telle] do telle Ad₂. I.
3511. a pause-bar in Ar. also before affirmed. 3512. this] the Lb. Di. Ba. C. T₂.
P. E₂. L₂. was by the serpent] bi the serpent was Ad₁. (this serpent Ad₂. I.) Ra.
(with the Ba.) S. ded] om. M. 3514. comen Ar. to come M. Di. Ad₁. S. come
Bo. and the rest. in] into the Ra. Ba. to the Ad₂. I. 3515. intencioun] pitous
intencioun Ra. Ba. 3517 and 3518 transposed in Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3518. hur Ar.
fynde Bo. M. Ad₁. fynd Ar. fynde can] can tell Ba. 3519. Than] But that
Ra. Ba. herd] hard T₂. afor me] me afor Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂.
I. E₁. S. P. L₂. me to-fore G. han herd afor] before haue herd Ra. Ba. specifye]
especifie T₁. Du. to specifye S. 3520. but] om. P. 3if] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M.
Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. lye] do nat lye P. 3521. ycalled Ar. G. Ad₁. I. Ra.
Ba. E₁. L₂. called Bo. and the rest. was ycalled] called was Lb. T₂. E₂. that
called was P. 3524. To Athenes that] þat to Attens S. kam] wente Ad₁. Ad₂.
I. Ra. Ba. S. C. 3526. Lad] I-lad Lb. T₂. P. Yled E₂. And Di. I. foure l₁.
four Ar. ; Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Ad₁. C. P. E₂. have IIII. ; T₂. has II. 3529.
was whilom] whilom was Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. at debat] at bate Lb. at þe bate
L₁. 3531. dide T₁. M. dede Lb. Ad₁. did Ar. Bo. vnto M. Di. Ad₂. I. T₂.
to Ar. Bo. and the rest.

and put water in wine,	And for he first / sett ^t allay on wynys, Meyntē water / whan they were to strong ^r .	3532
the God broke his limbs and drownd him.	And this Bachus / for the grete wrong ^r Brak his lymys / <i>and</i> dreynt ^t hym in þe See. Of lygurgus / 3e gete no more of me.	3536
¶ Nota de xii arboribus in libro Bochacii de genealogia deorum. See Boccaccio on the Genealogy of the Gods.	¶ But the trouth / 3if 3e lyst ^t verryfie, Rede of goddēs / the Genologye, lynealy / her kynrede be degrees, I-braunchēd out / vpon twelue trees, Mad by Bochas / decertaldo called,	3540
He was next poet to Petrarch.	Among ^r Poetys / in ytaille stalled, Next Fraunceys Petrak / swyng ^r in certeyn.	
[leaf 59, back]	Now vnto Grekys / I wil retourne ageyn, To tellē forth shortly, 3if I konne, Of her Iournē / that they haue * begonne :	3544
Adrastus takes leave of Ly- curgus.	how Adrastus / hath his lievē * take Of ligurgus / with his browēs blake ; And departyng, with seynt Iohn to borowe, Mad his wardēs / on the nexte morowe So wel beseyn / so myghty, <i>and</i> so strong, Wonder erly / whan þe larkē * song ^r , With a trompet ^r / warnēd euery man To be redy / in al the hast they kan, Forto remwe / and no letting ^r make.	3548 3550

3532. sett] *om.* C. allay] alaies Ad₁. Ra. Ba. Alies Ad₂. I. sett allay] alla
sette E₁. allayes sett Ra. Ba. on] in Bo. S. L₂. of G. 3533. Meynte M
Ad₁. Meynt Bo. water] with water E₂. whan Ar. G. Lb (whon). C. T₂. P. E
I₂ (when). þere Bo. where T₁. *and the rest.* to] so L₁. Di. Ra. *om.* Ba
3534. this] thus Lb. S. P. Bachus Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. Bacus T₁. bakes L
Bochas E₂. the grete] grete Ra. Ba. þat stronge M. Di. 3535. lymys M
lymes Bo. limes Ad₁. lemes S. dreynt] drouned C. 3537. verrylie]
verryfie Bo. Du. Ad₁. to specific Ad₂. I. 3538. Rede Bo. M. redith Ad
goddess] the goddess Ad₂. I. of goddess the] the goddess of Ba. geneoogyne Ad
genalogye Bo. Genealogie M. genelagye Di. Genealogie Ad₂. geneologie]
3540. vpon] on Ra. of Ba. XII Bo. twelf Ad₁. 3541. decertaldo Ar. B
M. Ad₁. Decertalde Ra. Ba. de cretaldo I. 3542. Itaille Bo. Italye M. Ad
3545. forth shortly] shortly forth Ad₁. 3547. lief Ar. leue Bo. leue M. Ad
G. take] itake Ra. Ba. Ad₂. I. 3549. departyng] departed Ra. Ba. Ioh
Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. Ion C. Iohan E₂. borowe Bo. borw M. Ad₁. 355
omitted in Ba. 3551. myghty] myztely Di. 3552. larke Bo. Ad₁. la
Ar. M. 3553. warnēd] warne Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3554. they] he Ad₁. Ad
I. Ba. 3555. remue Bo. M. Ad₁.

- And so they han / the righte way I-take 3556 Adrastus and
 Touard^t Thebës / the grekës euerychoñ, his Greeks march
 That^t such a nombre / gadred into oñ,
 Of worthy knyghtës neuere aforñ was seyn,
 whan they in ferë / monstred in a pleyñ. 3560
 And they ne stynt^t by non occasioun
 Til they be come euen a-for the toun, to Thebes,
 And pight^t her tentys / proudly, as I rede, and pitch their
 Vnder the wallys / in a grenë* mede. 3564 tents.
 ¶ And whan the* thebans / were besette aboute, The Thebans
 The manly knyghtës / wold han* yssyd oute
 And haue* scarmosshëd / in her lusty pride,
 With her foomen / on the toper side. 3568
 But^t be byddyng^t / of Ethiocles
 Alle pilkë* nyght / þei kepte hem-silf in pes, keep quiet,
 Be cause only / that^t it was so late,
 With gret^t awayt^t / set at euery gate, 3572 but watch at
 Men of Armys / al the nyght^t wakyng^t the gates,
 On the wallys / be byddyng^t of þe kyng, [leaf 60]
 Lest þer werë / treynys or tresoun.
 And on the tours / and in the Chief Dongoun 3576
 he sette vp men / to makë mortal sowns and blow horns
 with brasyn hornys / and loudë Clarions,
 Of ful entent^t / þe wacchës forto kepe, to keep the
 In his wardë / that^t no man ne slepe. 3580 watchers awake.
 And Grekys proudly / al þe longe nyght^t
 kyndled* fyrys / and maad ful gret lyght^t, The Greeks
 3556. right Bo. M. Ad₁. way Bo. M. Ad₁. weye Di. om. Lb. I-take Ar.
 Lb. L₂. take Bo. and the other MSS. 3560. in fere] yfere C. T₂. to-gidre Ra.
 Ba. monstred Bo. mostred M. monstred] mostren L₁. Ad₁. moustren Ad₂.
 I. E₁. mustren Ra. were moustred E₂. to mustre S. in] on L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
 Ra. Ba. P. 3564. a] the M. Di. grene Bo. M. Ad₁. gren Ar. grete Du.
 3565. whan] whan þat Bo. om. L₁. the Thebans] Thebans Ar. L₂. besette] sett
 all S. 3566. han Bo. Ad₁. an Ar. haue M. 3567. haue Bo. M. Ad₁. ha
 Ar. scarmysshed Bo. Ad₁. scarmesshed M. scyrmysshed Ad₂. L₂. lusty] hasty
 Lb. C. P. E₂. L₂. 3568. þat othre Bo. M. Ad₁. 3570. pilke Bo. pilk Ar.
 M. Ad₁. 3571 and 3572 are transposed in Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3576. on] in M. Di.
 Ad₂. I. C. in] on Ba. om. Lb. Ra. S. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. P (om. the). 3577. to] ta Ar.
 3578. brasen Bo. 3580. ne] om. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. ; in Ad₁. ne is written, but it has
 been underdotted with black ink and crossed with red ink (= the rubric ink). 3581.
 long Bo. M. Ad₁. 3582. kyndled] kyndle Ar. kyndly E₁. fyrys] fuyre Lb.
 ful] om. S.

- Sette vp loggyng^t / vpon euery Syde
lik as they shuld / euer ther abyde, 3584
- lie all round Thebes. Compas the tounē / ther was no voidē space
But al besette / her foomen to manace.
- And whilys they afor þe Citē laye,
On euery cost^t / they sent out to forraye, 3588
- ¶ The Forey þat þe Grekis made in þe contre about Thebes. Brentē townēs / thorpēs and vilages,
with grete ravyn makyn^g their pillages,
Spoyle / and robbe / and brougtē* hom vitaille
- The Greeks plunder the Theban land, And al maner soortes / of bestaylle, 3592
- kill all the game, Hert^t and hyndē* / bothē buk and doo,
The blake* beer / and þe wilde Roo, 3596
- The fatte swyn / and þe tusshy* boor,
Karyng^t al hom / for the grekēs stoor,
whete and wyn / for her anauntage,
- and collect all the fodder. Hay and Otys / fodder / and forage. 3600
- With þis kalendis / as hem thynkē* dwe,
Grekys gan / the thebans to Salwe,

3583. loggyng] loggynges Du. 3584. shulde Bo. shuld M. Ad₁. 3585. space] place M. Di. 3587. whiles M. Ad₁. whils Bo. afor Bo. M. be fore Ad₁. tofore E₂. 3588. On] In Bo. L₁. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. And C sent] sett Ra. Ba. S. settyn L₂. out to] out to the E₁. vn- to the P. a S in Ar. after out is tho, underdotted; to is written above the line, with the usual mark of insertion. 3589. Brent Bo. M. Ad₁. Brynd S. thorpes Bo. M. Ad₁. thropes Du. thruhuppis Ad₂. thruhupys I. 3590. ravyn Ar. G. Bo Du. M. Ad₁. C. raven Lb. raveyn T₁. Di. Ra. T₂. ravyne E₁. raveyne L₁. L. ravenne P. rauing E₂. theyr Ar. her Bo. M. Ad₁. om. L₁. 3591. first and om. Ro. Spoyle and robbe] Spoylid and robbed P. Spoyll and robbery; broughte Ad₁. brought Ar. Bo. M. hom] hem Bo. Du. Ad₂. I. them S 3592. soortes Bo. T₁. Ra. sortes Du. M. Ad₁. E₂. stoore Lb. P. bestaylle] bestia Ba. in P. 3592 reads: And all maner store, to strength þe batayle. 3593. A has a bar also between and and neet. her] om. Bo. 3594. with hounde Woundes L₁. with woundes Lb. slowen C. slowe Ar. Bo. slow M. Ad slough Du. L₁. sclenghe Ro. slayne Lb. T₂. P. E₂. 3595. hynde] ynde A buk Bo. M. bookke Ad₁. 3596. blake Bo. Ad₁. blak Ar. M. wilde B wild M. Ad₁. 3597. fatte Ad₁. fat Bo. M. tusshy Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Ad Ra. L₂. Ro. tusshy Ad₂. C. T₂. P. E₂. tuskyd Lb. trusshy Ar. G. tussy 3598. Karyng] Bryngenge Ro. L₂. hom] hem Bo. 3601. this Bo. these M Ad₁. þe L₁. E₂. hem] theim Ba. S. Ro. þey L₁. Lb. Ad₂. P. thynke] thyn Ar. E₁. pinke L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. thenke Bo. T₁. Di. S. thenk Du. M. them C thought Lb. and the rest. 3602. Grekys Ar. G. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₂. I. R Ba. E₁. S. L₂. Ro. þe Grekes Bo. Lb. Ad₁. C. T₂. P. E₂. gan] om. Bo. konne M come Di. the thebans] thebans T₁. to] om. G. Ad₁. I. C. E₂.

- Mynistring^t hem / occisionës* felle, [leaf 60, back]
 þe sege settë /, shortly forto telle, 3604 They mean to
 Of ful entent^t / in their hatful pryde, press the siege
 For lif or deth / ther-vpon tabide, to the death.
 who so euer / ther-with be a-greued,
 Til they fully / her purpoos haue acheued ; 3608
 Ther may therof / be makëd no relees.
 And of al* this / ful war / Ethiocles Eteocles
 Gan in party / gretly to* mervaille
 whan that he saugh / þe grete apparaylle 3612
 Of the Grekes / þe Citë rounde aboute ;
 And in hym-silf hadde a maner doute, is in doubt
 Now at^t the poynt / what^t was best^t to do. what to do.
 For thilkë* tyme / it^t stood with hym so 3616
 That^t to some abidyng^t in þe toun
 he hadde in hertë / gret^t suspecioun
 list toward^t hym / that^t they were vnstable,
 And to his brother / in party fauorable ; 3620 ¶ The variaunce
 For in the Citë / ther was variance, in Thebes among
 which vnto hym was a gret^t meschaunce ; hem-silf.
 For in his nedë / shortly / he ne wiste
 Vpon whom / þat^t he myghte triste ; 3624 Eteocles asks
 For they wer not^t / alle of oñ entent^t : the advice of
 For which he hath / for his counsale sent,

3603. Mynistring] Mustringe Lb. Ad₂. I. P. L₂. occisiones] occasions (occasions)
 Ar. Bo. and all the other MSS. (cf. 4204 and see Notes). 3605. her Bo. M. Ad₁.
 3606. to abide Bo. M. Ad₁. 3607. ther-with] herwith Lb. P. theratte
 E₂. 3608. Ar. has another pause-bar after they. 3609. makel] made L₁. Ad₁.
 Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. P. E₂. Ro. om. L₂. 3610. al M. Di. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro.
 om. Ar. Bo. and the rest. And of al this] Of this and Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. Of
 þis L₁. And all this while Ro. ful war] ful weel war Ra. C. full wele war was
 Ba. full warre was L₁. Lb. Ad₂. I. was ware P. 3611. Gan] Wheche ganne Lb.
 P. to Lb. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. om. Ar. Bo. and the rest. 3612. that] om. Lb.
 M. Di. C. T₂. P. E₂. grete Bo. gret M. Ad₁. grete] om. Du. 3614. in] om.
 Ra. Ba. hadde] he had Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3615. atte poynt Bo. Ad₁. at poynt M.
 all the poynt Lb. 3616. thilke Bo. Ad₁. thilk Ar. M. that S. 3617. Ar.
 has a pause-bar after abidyng. 3619. list Ar. G. lest Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra. (see
 Notes). toward hym] to him ward Ad₁. to hym Ad₂. I. him] om. Lb. that]
 om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ra. E₁. P. 3621. the] þis Di. ther] tho Ba. om. Ad₁.
 Ad₂. I. 3622. which] that C. T₂. P. E₂. vnto] to T₂. a] om. P. Ro. 3623.
 his] þis Bo. nede] herte Ad₂. I. 3624. might Bo. M. Ad₁. sholde Ad₂. I.
 wiste : triste Ar. Ad₁. wist : trist Bo. M. wiste : trustee C. 3626. For which]
 Wherefore M. Di. T₂. E₂. Ro. he hath] hath he Ra.

his lords
and his mother
Jocasta.

Al his lordes / and the oldē Quene,
which as he dempte / werē* pur and clene, 3628

Hool of on herte / and not variable,
Of oldt expert / and alway founde stable ;
Requeryngt hem / be-causē they were wys,
Al openly to tellen / ther avis 3632

[leaf 61]

Wher it was bet / pleylnly, in her sight,
With his brother / to treten or to fight.

Some say
'Fight';

And somē gaf / a ful blunt sentence,
which hadde / of werrē / non experience : 3636

Seyde it was best /, and nat ben afferd,
To trye his right / manly with þe Swerd.

some,

And some also / that wer moor prudent,
Spak vnto hym / by good avisement 3640

And list nat sparē* / but their conceyte tolde
how hit was best / his couenaunt forto holde,

'Keep your
promise to your
brother.'

And to perform / his heeste mad to-forñ
To his brother / lich as he was sworn ; 3644

So that his word /, the wors to mak hym spede,
Be nat foundē / variant fro the dede,

For non hatred / rancour, neyther pryde.

¶ Nota

¶ The word of
þe quene Jocasta
to Ethocles.

Jocasta takes
Ethocles aside,

And tho / the queenē* / took hym out aside, 3648
Tolde hym pleylnly / it was ful vnsittyngt

Swich doublenesse / to fynden in a kyngt,

3628. which] Suche Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. dempte] deemyd Ad₂. I. S. deputed F. deputith Ba. were] that were Ar. E₂. pure] true S. were pure] pure were L. Di. ; in L₂. and Ro. 3628 is much altered: Which that his hert most wold der L₂. Which in effect he demyd shulde seme Ro. 3630. and] in Du. 3631. ther Ar. her Bo. M. Ad₁. 3633—4209 gap in T₂. 3633. Wher] Whee Bo. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ra. Ba. S. P. was Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. were Lb. and the re bet] better L₁. Lb. Ba. S. P. E₂. Ro. 3635. And] om. Ra. ful] om. Bo. A. Ad₂. I. 3637. and nat ben] and noþing be L₁. and nat to be Ra. nat to Ad₂. I. C. nat be Ad₁. 3638. trye] trete Ro. þe Ar. C. E₂. L₂. a G. Lb. I. P. his Bo. and the rest. 3639. wer Ar. were Bo. M. Ad₁. 3640. vnto] M. Di. 3641. spare Bo. M. Ad₁. spar Ar. their Ar. Bo. Ad₁. her M. 3642. couenaunt] couenantes M. Di. forto] to M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. S. E₂. 3643. to] C. C. parform Ar. Bo. T₁. parfourne Du. parforme G. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. parfourme I. Ra. Ba. L₂. Ro. performe L₁. S. P. parfourme E₁. E₂. heest. Ad₁. heste Bo. 3644. And to eschewe in all wise to be forsworn Ra. 3645. to make hym] make hym to E₂. spede] fare Lb. P. And if he pur trewlie to spede Ba. Ra. 3646. the dede] your dede Ra. Ba. noo dede in P. 3646 reads: Tolde hym full pleylnly (so as they dare). 3648. queen Bo. quene M. Ad₁. out aside] vnside Ra. on side Ba. 3649. ful Ar. C. E₂. L₂. Ro. om. Bo. and the rest. 3650. fynde Bo. M. Ad₁.

- And seide hym ek / al-thoh he were strong,
 To his brother / how he didē* wrong, 3652 and reminds him
of his wrong-
doing.
- “As al the tounē / wil record, in dede,
 And berē* witnesse / ȝif it kam to nede.
 Wherfor lat vs shape another mene
 In this materē / whil that it is grene, 3656
 Or this quarel /, gonne of voluntē,
 Turne / in the fyn / to mor aduersitē.
 For ȝif it be / darreyned be bataylle,
 who tresteth most / may ful likly faille. 3660
 And it is foly / be short avisement,
 To putte a strif / in martys Iugement.
 For hard it is / whan a Iuge is wood,
 To tret aforn hym / with-out loos of blood. 3664 [leaf 61, back]
*] How perilous
it is to be go-
vernyd by (short
auisement in)*
any querel.
Jocasta tells
Eteocles
- And ȝif we put our mater* / hool in Marte,
 which with the swerd / his lawes doth coarte,
 Than may hit happe / wher ȝe be glad or loth,
 Thow and thy brother / shal repente both; 3668
 And many a-noþer / that is her present,
 Of ȝoure trespas / that ben Innocent,
 And many thousand / in cas shal compteyn
 For the debat / only of ȝow tweyn, 3672
 And for ȝour strif / shal fyndē ful vnsoote.
 “And for thow art gynnyng, ground, and Roote

that, as he's the
wrong-doer,

3651. al-thoh] pough Bo. L₁. 3652. how] haue Du. dide Bo. M.
 dede Ad₁. did Ar. 3654. omitted in Lb. P.; in Lb. the line is left blank:
 in P. 3655 follows immediately on 3653 in the column, while a later hand
 has written with much paler ink in the right-hand margin: Contrarye to
 þat was agreid. 3654. bere Bo. Ad₁. G. ber Ar. M. ȝif] whan Ad₂. I.
 cam Bo. come M. Ad₁. 3656. that] om. Ra. Ba. S. it] om. G. 3657. Or]
 Er T₁. Ra. Ba. E₂. Of S. gonne] begone S. gynne Ra. Ba. gone P. thus gone
 E₂. goo Lb. of] to Lb. P. 3660. tristeth Bo. M. trustith Ad₁. most] om.
 Lb. P. ful] om. Lb. E₁. P. likly] lightly L₁. Lb. P. E₂. 3663. a] þe P.
 3665. ȝif] om. M. Di. put our mater Lb. C. P. E₂. I₂. Ro. puter Ar. putte G.
 put it Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. hool] holy M. Di. Ra.
 Ba. in] on Ad₁. Marte] Mart Ad₂. I. Ra. L₂. Mars L₁ (: coars); in the rubric,
 after by, the rest of the line is blank; supplied from Du. 3666. which] that Ad₁.
 Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. the] his Lb. P. Ro. his lawes] his lawe L₁. þe lawe
 Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 3667. loth] wroth M. S. C. E₂. I₂. Ro. 3668—4060
 gap in C. 3670. Of] That of Ro. that] om. Ro. they S. ben] bethe I₂.
 beyng S. Innocent] very Innocent Lb. P. E₂. ful innocent Ro. 3673. shal]
 shul Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Ra. ye shall P. ful] hit P. om. Ra. Ba. 3674. gynnyng]
 begynnyng Ad₂. I. gynner M. Di. Ra. Ba. P. E₂. begynnere Lb.

	Of this Iniurie / and this gret vnright,	
he'll have to account for all who die in the war.	To the goddys / that herof han a sight,	3676
	Thow shalt accountys / and a reknyng make	
	For alle tho / that persshyn for pi sake.	
	And now the causè / dryven is so ferre,	
Peace and war,	Sodeyn pees / outhur* hasty werre	3680
life and death, hang in the balance.	Moot folwe anon / ; for the fatal chaunce	
	Of lif and deth / dependeth in balaunce.	
	And no man may / be no craft restreyne	
	That vpon on* / platly of this tweyne	3684
	The soort mot fallè / lik as it doth tourne,	
	Who so euer lawgh / or ellys mourne.	
He's at the stake,	And thow art dryve / so narowè to þe stake	
	That thow mayst nat / moo delayès make,	3688
and must fight or treat.	But fight or tret / this quarel forto fyne ;	
	By non engyn / thow canst / it not deelyne.	
	And hasty cas /, as folk seyn that be wys,	
	Redresse / requereth by ful short avys :	3692
[leaf 62]	For trete longe / now avaylleth noght.	
	For to the poynt / sothly thou art brouht,	
	Outher* to kepè thy pocessioun	
	Or in al haste / devoyde / out of this toun,	3696
	wher thow therwith / be wroth or wel apayd."	
Jocasta tells	"Now notè wel / al that I haue* sayd,	
	And by my counsayl / wisly condescende	
	Wrong, wrouht of olde / newly to amende.	3700

3676. herof] therof S. theron Ba. a] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3678. pershen
perisschen Bo. Ad₁. 3680. Sodeyn] Sodeinly E₂. oyther Ar. outhur Ro. oth
L₂. either Bo. Ad₁. or T₁. M. Lb. or ellys L₁. Di. 3681. Mote Bo. A₁
Most M. Di. S. fatal] final Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3682. and] or Di. in] in a T₁. A₁
I. S. 3684. That] *om.* I. on] *om.* Ar. G. platly] playnely P. plainly
this] hem Ad₁. Ad₂. I. you Lb. P. E₂. 3686. Who so] Who that M. A₁
Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. Who so þat Di. S. Whos that E₁. ener] euer therof Lb.
euer ther-at E₂. *om.* Di. or ellys (Ar. G. Ro.)] other Bo. T₁. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
either M. Di. or Du. Lb. Ra. Ba. E₁. P. E₂. L₂. 3688. nat moo] no mo
nat no Ad₂. P. L₂. Ro. not no more Di. not no mo S. 3691. And] An M. I
3693. For Ar. G. L₂. To (*om.* For) Ro. For to Bo. and the rest. long A
longe Bo. M. avaylleth] avayleth þe Lb. 3695. Oyther Ar. Outher Bo. Eyth
M. Ad₁. 3696. al] *om.* M. Di. 3697. wher Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. whether Lb. I
therwith] *om.* T₁. P. herwith Ra. Ba. wel] euele Di. P. Ro. 3698. al] o
Ad₂. ha Ar. haue Bo. M. Ad₁. haue the Ad₂. I. Ro. to the have Ra. Ba.

The tyme is come / it may be noon other.

wherfor in haste / trete with thi brother

Eteocles

And ageyn hym / make no resistance,

But to thy lordys / fully giue* credence :

3704

By whoos counsayl / sith they be so sage,
late Polymyte / reioyse his heritage.

to give Poly-
neices his
inheritance.

And that shal turne / most to thyn avail.

loo ! her is hool / the fyn of our counsail."

3708

¶ And shortly tho / for verrey Irē wroth,

Eteocles is
wroth,

Thouh he therto / froward was and loth,

Accorded is /, heryng al the prees,

3if he algate shal trete for a* pes,

3712

but agrees to
treat for peace
if he may

It moste be / by this condicioun

That he wol han / the domynacioun

First in chief / to hym-silf reserued,

As hym thought / he haddē wel disserued,

3716

And saue to hym / hool the souereyntē ;

remain King,

And vnder hym / in Thebēs þe Citē

and Polyneices

he to grauntē / with a right good cher,

Polymytēs / to regnē for a 3er,

3720

reign under him
for a year.

Than tavoyde* / and not resoort ageyn :

For mor to cleyrnē / was nat but In veyn.

This wold he doñ / only for her sake,

(leaf 62, back)

And other-wise / he wil non endē make

3724

If not, he'll
fight.

with the Grekys / what fortune euere falle.

And fynally / among his lordys alle

No Theban lord
will propose
this :

Ther was not on / of hiñ nor lowgh estat,

3702. haste . trete Bo. with] well with E₁. 3704. 3if Ar. 3yf G. Du. gyue
Bo. yeue M. Ad₁. 3708. hool] all Ro. hool the fyn] the fyn hol Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
Ra. Ba. S. our] my Ro. 3709. verrey] om. E₂. Ire] ire and S. P. L₂. Ro.
wroth] wrath P. wroght Ba. 3710. he] om. Lb. therto] herto E₂. and] or
E₁. 3712. he] 3e Di. algate Bo. he algate shal trete] algate entrete he shal
Ad₂. I. he algate trete shal G. a pes Lb. M. Di. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. pes Ar. Bo. and the
rest. 3713. most M. Ad₁. muste E₁. mot Bo. Lb. L₂. 3716. wel] it wel Bo. T₁.
Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. 3717. And saue] So sone Lb. And sole
P. to] vnto Ra. Ba. hool] holy L₁. M. Di. Ra. Ba. 3719. a right good] riht a
goode Di. 3721. tavoyde Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. Ra. E₂. to avoyde Du. L₁. Lb. Di.
Ad₂. I. Ba. S. P. avoyde Ar. G. E₁. Ro. to voyde L₂. 3722. nat] om. M.
Di. Ad₂. I. P. nat but] all but E₂. In veyn] Inveyn Ar. veyn Ad₁. S.
3723. This] Thus Bo. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. L₂. her] his Ra. Ba.
3725. the] om. Lb. M. Di. P. E₂.

- That woldë* gon / on this ambassyat 3728
 Out of the toune / nouthur for bet nor wors ;
 so Jocasta will. Til Iocasta / madë sadyl her hors,
 And cast her-silf / to gon for this tretë,
 To make an endë / 3if it woldë be. 3732
 Jocasta and her daughters, And this was don / the morowe right be tyme,
 Vpon the hourë* / whan it droh to pryme.
 And with hyr went / hyr 3onge dohtres tweyñe,
 Antigone and Ismene, Antygonë / and the feyr ymeyne, 3736
 Of hyr meynë / ful many on aboute,
 At the gate / she was conveyëd oute,
 And of purpos / she madë first hir went
 ride to King Adrastus, On hors-bak / to kyng Adrastus tent, 3740
 He and his lordys / beyng al yffere.
 who welcomes her. And they receyve hyr / with a right glad chere,
 Shewyng hyr / lik to hir degre,
 On euery half / ful gret humanytë, 3744
 Polyneices Polymytës / rysyng fro his place,
 And humbly / his moder gan enbrace,
 kisses her and his sisters. Kyssede hyr / and than Antigonë,
 And ek ymeyne / excellyng of bewtë. 3748
 And for that they / passyngly were faire,
 Gret was the pres / concours, and repaire
 Of the ladyes forto han a sight.
 Jocasta And Iocasta / procedeth anon ryght 3752

3728. wolde Bo. wold Ar. M. Ad₁. Ra. on] vpon Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. in T₁. L₁. this] his L₁. om. E₁. ambassyat Ar. M. Ad₁. embassiate Bo. embassate Ba. bassate E₁. 3729. for] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. L₂. nor Ar. ne Bo. M. Ad₁. ne for Ba. wors] wers (: hors) Ra. Ba. Ad₂. 3731. for] on Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. P. E₂. this] the Ro. 3734. heure Bo. M. hour Ar. Ad₁. 3735. yong Bo. M. Ad₁. 3737. on] her Ro. 3738. At the Ar. Atte Bo. Ad₁. At M. conveyec M. conveyde Bo. Ad₁. 3741. al] there M. Di. 3742. receyve] resseyvic L₁. Lb. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. P. a] om. E₁. S. right] full L₁. om. M. Di. Ad₂. I. P. a right] right a T₁. Lb. Ad₁. glad] om. Ra. goode Ba. 3743. Shewyng Sewyng Bo. Suing E₁. 3746. humbly Ar. G. humbely L₁. Di. Ad₁. E₁. P. humbly Bo. and the rest. 3747. Antigone] Antigon Lb. 3748. ek] om. G. M. Di. E₁. thenne Lb. than P. excellyng of] excellynge in Lb. excellent o G. Ba. E₁. E₂. of excellent P. bewte] beute anon Lb. 3749. that] om. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. passyngly were] were passyngly Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. were passyng L₁. were passandli Ra. Ba. wer so passyng S. were so excellent P (so on erasure). 3751. the] po Bo. T₁. forto] to Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba.

To Adrastus / hir' mater to purpose,		[leaf 63]
And gan to hym / opynly disclose		proposes Eteocles's terms :
Thentent ^t and wiſh of Ethioeles,		
And by what menē he desireth pes,	3756	
To hym reserued /, as she gan specifie,		
The honour hool / and the regalye,		that he shall remain King,
with Sceptre and Crounē fro hym not devyded,		
But hool to hym / as he hath provided ;	3760	
¶ And Polymyte, be this condicioun,		and Polynicees reign under him.
Vnder hym to regnen / in the toun		
As a Soget, be suffraunce of his brother.		
But the Grekēs / thouhten al another,	3764	
And Specyaly worthy Tydeus,		Tideus rejects them.
Pleynly affermyng it shuld nat be thus :		¶ The answer of Tydeus.
For he wil hauē / no condiciouns,		
But sette a-Syde / aſt excepciouns,	3768	
Nothyng reseruid / as in special,		Tideus says
But hool the lordship, Regalye, and al,		
Polymytēs it fully to possede,		Polynicees must be crownēd King in Thebes,
In Thebēs Crownēd / verrayly in dede,	3772	
As Rightful kyng / putte in pocioun,		
lich the Couenauntys and conuencioun		
Imad of olde / assuryd, and asselyd,		
“ which shall not now of nwē be repelyd,	3776	
But stable and hool / in his strengthē* stonde.		
And lat hym so platly vndyrstonde !		
And first that he devoyde hym out of toun,		Eteocles and Polynicees must leave the town.

3754. opynly] specially Lb. P. disclose Ar. G. M. Ba. E₁. S. P. L₂. to disclose Bo. and the rest. 3755. Ar. has a pause-bar after Thentent. 3757. reseruyd Bo. M. Ad₁. reserue E₂. she] he L₂. gan] can Du. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. 3758. The honour M. thonour Bo. Ad₁. hool] holde Du. 3759. with Sceptre] That Septor P. 3760. hool] holy M. Di. holde Du. 3763. suffraunce] soverauce Ba. 3768. in Ar. after all, is ce, underdotted. 3769. special] especiall Du. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. 3771. in Ar. it is added above the line with the usual mark. 3773. As] And T₁. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. E₂. Rightful] rihtfulli Ra. putte] putte hym T₁. 3775. Imad] Maad T₁. asselyd] enseled Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₂. I-selid Ra. Ba. S. Ro. essealed E₁. 3776. newe Bo. new M. Ad₁. 3777. strengthe M. Ad₁. strength Ar. Bo. trouth Ba. 3778. so platly] platly soo Lb. P. E₂. so pleynly Bo. S. 3779. first that he] hastli Ra. hastelie Ba. hym] om. L₁. P. Ro. toun Ar. G. Bo. Lb. Ad₁. E₂. L₂. the toun T₁. and the rest of the MSS.

	And delyuere the Sceptre / and the Croun	3780
	To his brother / and mak ^t therof no more.	
	And shortly ellys It ^t shal be bouht ^t ful sore	
[leaf 63, back]	Or this mater brought be to an ende.	
No Greek will depart till this is done.	For Grek is non / that ^t shal hennys wende	3784
	Or that ^t our right ^t / which is vs denyed,	
	with lif or deth / darreyned be <i>and</i> tryed :	
	we wil not ^t arst fro this towne remewe.	
If Eteocles	“And 3if hym lyst / al this thyng ^t eschwe	3788
	And al meschief / styntyn <i>and</i> appese,	
	To either part ^t / he may do gret ^t ese :	
	Thus I menē / for his auauntage,	
will give up Thebes for a year,	Delyuer vp hool / the trewē herytage	3792
	To his brother / for a 3eer tendure.	
the Greeks will guarantee him	And Grekys shal fully hym assure,	
	By what ^t bonde that ^t hym list devise,	
	The 3eer complet ^t /, in our beste wise	3796
possession of it again.	To hym delyuer / ageyn pocessioun	
	with-outē strif / or contradiecioun.	
	And to this fyn / Iustly hold* vs to.	
If not, he must fight.	“And 3if it ^t fallē / that ^t he wil nat so,	3800
	Lat ^t hym not ^t wayte / but ^t only after werre.	
	The hour is come / we wil it ^t not ^t differre.	
	¶ lo ! her is al / and thus 3e may reporte	
	To hym ageyn / whan that 3e resorte ;	3804
	Fro which apoynt ^t / we cast ^t vs not ^t to varye.”	

3780. delyuere] deliuere vp Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 3782. shortly ellys] ellis shortly M. Di. 3784. Grek is non Ar. G. Ro. Grek is per noon Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. P. Grekis is per non L₁. E₁. Grekes be ther none E₂. Grekys non ther L₂. Grek is here noon Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. that] om. L₂. shal] shull E₂. hennes Bo. hens M. Ad₁. 3785. which] that P. E₂. vs] so Ad₁. Ad₂. I. om. Du. denyed] deveyd Ba (: treid). 3787. wil not Ar. ne wol Bo. M. Ad₁. erst Bo. M. Ad₁. 3788. this thyng eschwe Ar. G. Lb. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. this to eschue Bo. *and the rest.* 3790. part M. Ad₁. parte Bo. 3791. mene M. Ad₁. meen Bo. 3792. true Bo. trew M. Ad₁. 3793. a3eer Ar. to endure Bo. M. Ad₁. 3794. shul Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. P. om. L₁. 3796. best Bo. M. Ad₁. 3797. pocessioun] in pocessioun Ra. Ba. 3799. holde Bo. M. hold Ad₁. hald Ar. 3802. it] om. M. Di. wil] shal Ba. 3805. Fro] For G. Di. Ba. apoynt Ar. T₁. Lb. M. Di. E₁. Ro. a poynt Bo (*with a middle point after a*). Du. Ra. o point Ad₁ (*with the usual point on each side of o, to mark the numeral*). oon poynt Ba. on poynt S. poynt L₁. Ad₂. I. P. L₂. appointment E₂. (see Notes). Ar. has a pause-bar also after which.

And 3it to hym / Amphiorax contrarye	Amphiorax
Ful pleylnly saide, in conclusioun,	says war 'll be
This fyn shal cause a destruccioun	3808 death to every one;
Of hem eehon / 3if it forth proeede	
To be parfourned / <i>and</i> execute in dede.	
But thilke tyme for al his elloquence	but few listen
He had in soth / but lytyl audience.	3812 to him.
For wherso euer / he ment / good or ille,	[leaf 64]
kyng ^t Adrastus / bad hym to be stille.	
¶ And tho Iocasta / as wisdom did hyr tech,	Jocasta tries
humble of her port / with ful softe spech,	3816
Gan sekë menys / in hyr fantasye	
3if she myght the Irë modefye	to modify the
Of the Grekes / to make hem to enelyne	Greeks' anger.
In eny wise / hyr rancour forto fyne.	3820
She dyd hyr dever / <i>and</i> hir bysy cure.	
But tho byfel a wonder aventure,	But a wonderful
Cause and ground / of gret confusioun,	event happens.
Grekys perturbyng / <i>and</i> also ek the toun,	3824
And it to tellë / may me not asterte.	
For which a whil / my styett I mot dyuerte,	
And shortly tellë /, by descripcioun,	
Of a Tigre dwellyng in the toun,	3828
which fro a kyngdam / besyden adiacent,	A tiger was
Out of Egipte / was to Thebës sent :	sent from Egypt
the* whichë* beest by record of scripture	to Thebes.

3806. Amphiorax] Amphorax Bo. 3807. Ar. has a pause-bar after pleylnly.
3808. cause Bo. M. Ad₁. Ar. has a pause-bar between fyn and shal. 3810.
parfourned Bo. parformed Ad₁. 3811. thilke Bo. Ad₁. thilk M. 3813.
For] *om.* L₁. wherso] wheper so L₁. Lb. E₂. what so M. he] it Bo. T₁. Du. L₁.
M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. ment] mene Ad₁. Ad₂. I. or ille] evele Ro
(: style). 3815. did hyr] *om.* Ra. can her Ba. 3816. her] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
softe Bo. soft M. Ad₁. 3821. deuoir Bo. M. devour Ad₁. 3824. par-
turbyng Bo. Ad₁. perturbling M. pertourbing E₂. also Ar. G. S. L₂. Ro. *om.*
Bo. and the rest. 3825. it] yit Ad₂. I. to] *om.* E₁. may] it may Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
Ra. Ba. S. Ro. I may E₂. L₂. me] *om.* Ad₂. I. E₂. L₂. may me not] may not
me M. Di. Ad₁. Ba. E₁. S. may not he Ra. 3826. while Bo. M. Ad₁. stile
Bo. M. Ad₁. 3829. besyden Ar. Bo. T₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. Ro. besidyn L₂.
besident E₂. by syen G. beside L₁. M. Di. Ra. Ba. besides Lb. P. 3831.
whiche Bo. M. which Ar. Ad₁. (see Notes).

The tiger is
savage,

Is most^t swift / as of his nature,

3832

And of kyn^l also most^t sauage,

And most^t cruel / whan he is in his rage,

And, as Clerkys makë menciouⁿ,

with a lion's
body,
a greyhound's
head,
red eyes,

He of body / resembleth the lyoun,

3836

And lik a greyhound^l / the mosel *and* the hed,

And of Eyen / as eny fyret^t red,

Ek of his Skyn /, wryten as I fynde,

and spotted skin.

lich a panter / conuersant^t in ynde,

3840

with al maner hwys *and* colours ;

And is ful oft^t / disceyued with merours

[leaf 64, back]

By fraude of huntys / *and* fals apparence

Shewyd in glas / with-uten existence,

3844

whan his kyndles / arn be sleight^t ytake*,

And he deceyuëd / may no rescus make.

This tiger at
Thebes was
tame,

And lik a lombe / was this Tygre tame,

3848

Ageynys kynde /, myn autour writ^t the same.

¶ And this beest^t, mervailous to se,

was sent^t to* ymeyne *and* antigonë :

which vnto hem / didë* gret^t confort,

And Cowdë playe / *and* makë good* disport^t,

3852

lik a whelp / that is but^t 3ong^t of age ;

never did any
damage,

And to no wight didë* no damage,

No mor in soth / þan doth a litil hound ;

And it^t was worth many hundred pound

3856

and used to
amuse Eteocles.

Vnto the kyng^t /, for ay in his greuance

3832. of] to Ba. his] his oune Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3833. of] of his M. Di. E also] om. M. Di. 3836. the Ar. Lb. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. a M. Di. to a Bo. *and the rest.* 3837. greyhounds Bo. grehound M. grehound Ad₁. mosel M. Ad musel Bo. mozell P. 3838. of] the M. Di. eien M. Ad₁. yen Bo. as en lyke A Ro. fyret Ar. G. feret L₂. ferete Ro. fyre Bo. *and all the rest (s Notes).* 3841. hewes Bo. Ad₁. hues M. 3845. arn Ar. E₁. L₂. aron L ar Bo. *and the rest.* sleight Bo. M. Ad₁. sleighes E₂. take] y-take Bo. Du. L Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. 3846. deceyued] destreined E₂. rescus Ar. Bo. M. Ad reskewe Ad₂. I. no rescus] no recours Lb. nat recente Ba. 3848. aye Bo. Ad₁. 3850. to] om. Ar. G. (Lb.) P. L₂. Ro. and] vnto Lb. 385 did Ar. Bo. M. dede Ad₁. 3852. good Lb. M. Di. P. E₂. gret Ar. B *and the rest (cf. 3851).* 3854. did Ar. Bo. dide M. dede Ad₁. 385 was] om. Du. many] many an Du. Lb. Ra. Ba. Ad₂. I. S. E₂. L₂. many L₁. E₁. hondred M. hundreth Bo. hondert Ad₁. 3857. in Ar. *before f* an crossed through.

Ther was no þing^r / did hym mor plesaunce,
 That for no tresour / it myght not be bought.
 For whan that he was pensif or in thought, 3860
 It putt hym out of his hevynesse.

And thilk^e* tyme /, the story doth expresse,
 That Iocasta treted* for a pes,
 This tamē Tygre / in party rekkēles, 3864

Now it runs out
 of the gates.

Out at the gates / in sight of many a man,
 Into the felde / wildēly* out ran,
 And Casuelly rennyng to and fro,
 In and oute, as doth a tamē Roo; 3868

Grekys wenyng^r that wer zong^r of age,
 That this Tygre / haddē be sauage,
 And Cruelly besettyng al the place
 Round aboutē / gan hym to enchace 3872

The Greeks,
 thinking it wild,

Til he was ded / and slayēn* in the feld.
 The slaughter of whom whan þat they byheld,
 The proude Thebans / which on the wallys stood,
 They ronñē doune ful furious and wood, 3876

The Thebans

wenyng he had / be slayēn* of despit.
 Takyng^r her hors / with-outē mor respit,
 Fully in purpos / with Grekys forto fighte,
 The Tigres deth / tavengen ȝif they myghte. 3880

sally out

And out they rood / with-outē gouernaylle,
 And ful proudly / Grekēs gan assaylle,
 And of hatred / and ful hegh desdayne

3858. did] þat did Lb. Ra. Ba. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. 3859. it] he Bo. myght]
 may Ra. Ba. not] om. Ra. Ba. be] ha be M. Di. 3860. whan that] om.
 Ra. that] om. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. 3861. putt] putted Ad₁. 3862.
 thilke Bo. Ad₁. thilk Ar. M. 3863. tretid Bo. M. Ad₁. treded Ar. 3864.
 rekles Bo. M. Ad₁. 3865. Out at] Out of Bo. T₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. Ro.
 gates] gate M. Di. 3866. wildely Bo. M. Ad₁. wildly Ar. 3867. rennyng Bo.
 Ad₁. rynnnyng Du. ronnyng S. 3870. had Bo. M. Ad₁. 3873. slayen] slayn
 Ar. Bo. and all. ded and slayen] slayn and ded M. Di. 3874. slaughter] deth E₁.
 þat] om. M. Di. Ra. Ba. 3875. which] that M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. Ro.
 3876. ronñe] rann Ba. E₂. renne Ad₂. I. ronñe doune] began to wexe P. ful]
 om. Bo. Lb. P. 3877. had] om. E₂. slayen] slayn Ar. Bo. and all. of] in Lb.
 Ar. has a second pause-bar after be. 3879. in purpos] purposed Lb. P. E₂.
 Grekys] the grekes M. Di. S. forto] to M. Di. Ba. S. 3880. tavengen M.
 Ad₁. to avengen Du. to vengen Bo. 3882. Grekes] the Grekes Ro. gau] gon
 M. Di. E₂. om. L₁. assayle] thei saile Ra.

and slay the	Fyl vpon hem / that han the tygre slayne, And cruelly qnitten hem her mede,	3884
Greeks who kild the tigre.	That many Greke / in the grenë mede, By the force / and the grete myght Of her Foomen, lay slayën* in þis fight. The Tigres deth / so derë they aboughte, So mortally the* Thebans* on hem wroughte That al the host, in the feld liggyng, was astounyd / of this sodeyn thyngt.	3888 3892
With them are Eteocles	And in this whil, of Rancour rekkëles, Out of Thebës rood Ethiocles,	
and King Tremor.	And with hym ek / the worthy kyngt Tremour, Of his hond a noble werreour, That madë Grekës to forsak her place, And to her tentys / gan hem to enchace. And myd the feld / as þei to-gyder mette On hors-bak / with sperës sharpë* whette	3896 3900
Many on both sides are slain.	Of verray hate / and of* envious pryde, Ful many on was del on outhur syde.	
[leaf 65, back]	¶ The whichë* thyngt / whan Tideus espieth*,	
¶ The manhod of Tydeus.	wood as lyoun / to hors-bak he hieth, As he that was neuer a del afferd; But ran on hem / and met hem in the berd,	3904
Tideus drives the Thebans back to their city.	And Maugrè hem / in his cruelte, he made hem fleen / hom to her Citè, hem pursuyngt / of ful dedly hate,	3908

3885. quitten Bo. Ad₁. quyt M. quyten I. Ad₂. gan quiten Ra. 3886
many Bo. M. many a Ad₁. 3887. grete Bo. Ad₁. grot M. 3888. slayen
slayn A. and all, except dede Ro. þis Ar. G. Lb. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. om. L₁. th
Bo. and the rest. 3890. the Thebans] Thebanys Ar. Thebans Lb. P. E₂. L₂.
Ro. 3891. Ar. has alle, with le underdotted. 3892. a-stonyed Bo. a-stone
M. Ad₁. 3893. whil] wise E₂. rekles Bo. M. Ad₁. rechelese Lb. 3895. ek
om. Lb. E₁. P. with hym ek] eke with hym L₁. kyngt om. L₁. Tremour
Trenour or Trenour Bo. 3896. honde in Ar., with e underdotted. hondis Lb.
3897. That made] To make Di. made] make Bo. 3898. to enchace] enchiac
Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. 3900. sharpe Bo. sharp Ar. M. Ad₁.
sharply E₂ whette] ywhette P (but ywh written by later hand, on erasure). 3901
and of] and Ar. Bo. and all. 3902. Ful] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3903. whiche Bo
M. which Ar. Ad₁. espieth] espeth Ar. 3904. lyoun] a leon L₁. Lb. D
Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. S. P. E₂. L₂. to] on Ro. he] om. Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I
Ba. E₁. S. hieth] hyede Ro.

That many on / lay slayen* at the gate,
 Gapynge vprightys / with her woundys wyde;
 That vtterely / they durste not abyde 3912
 To-for the swerd of this Tydeus.

he was on hem so passing furius,
 So many theban / he roof vnto the herte
 That whan Iocasta / the slaughtre gan aduerte, 3916
 ¶ Polymytës / she gan prey ful fayre
 To makë Grekis / hom ageyn repayre,
 And that they wolden styntyn to assaylle
 For thilkë* day / and cessen her bataylle. 3920

At whoos requeste / pleylnly and preyere,
 And at Reuerence / of his moder dere,
 Polymytës, her herte to conforte,
 Grekës madë / hom ageyn resorte 3924
 And Tydeus to stynten of his chas.

He does so.

And they of Thebës hasting a gret pas,
 Ful trist and hevy / ben entred into toun.
 And for the Tygre, in conclusioun, 3928
 As 3e han herd / first began this stryff,
 That many theban / that day lost his lyff
 And recurlees / hath 3olden vp the breth,
 In thavengyng / of the tygres deth. 3932

This tiger-business begins the war.

And al this while / duely as she ought,
 þe quene Iocasta / humbely besought

[leaf 66]

Jocasta prays
 Adrastus

3910. slaien Ad₁. slayn Ar. *and all the rest.* at the Ar. atte Bo. Ad₁. at M.
 3911. vprightys Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. Ad₁. I. E₁. Ro. vpright L₁. *and the rest.*
 3913. To-for] Ther for E₁. S. this] om. Lb. Ad₂. I. worthy P. 3915.
 many M. Ad₁. many a Bo. theban] Thebans Lb. Ra. P. E₂. roof] rood Ad₂. I.
 vnto] to G. Lb. M. Di. E₁. P. E₂. 3917. she gan prey] she preie gan P. E₂. L₂.
 Ro. to pray she gan Lb. ful] right Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3919. wolde G. Bo. Ad₁.
 wil M. wolden styntyn] stynten wolde Ad₂. I. 3920. pilke Bo. Ad₁. thilk Ar.
 M. that S. P. day] tyme Lb. P. E₂. cessen M. Ad₁. cesen Bo. ceassen E₂.
 cheson Lb. P. her] of M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 3921. preyeiro Ar.
 3922. at Ar. M. atte Bo. Ad₁. at þe Lb. Di. P. 3924. hom] hem G. Bo. Du.
 I. he Ad₂. made hom] made he hom Lb. P. resorte] to resorte G. M. Ad₂. I.
 3925. to] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. S. stynten] styntith Ad₂. styntyng I. 3926.
 hasting] enhasting M. Di. 3927. into toun Ar. G. L₂. Ro. þe toun Ad₁. Ad₂.
 I. vnto the toun S. in-to þe toun Bo. *and the rest.* 3929. herd] herd me
 Ad₁. Ad₂. I. began] gan Ad₁. Ad₂. I. this] the T₁. Lb. Ra. Ba. P. E₂.
 3930. That] But E₂. 3931. recurlees] reklesli Ra. Ba. S. 3olden] yeuen E₂.
 3932. In] Of E₂. thavengyng] the avengyng L₁. Lb. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. P. L₂. Ro.
 3934. humbely Ar. humbely L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. P. humbly Bo. *and the rest.*

- Kyng Adrastus / only of his grace,
 Some menë way / wisly to purchace 3936
 to make peace; To make a pees / atwene the bretheren tweyn,
 And the tretè / so prudently ordeyne,
 On eiper party / that no blood be shad.
 but he will And this Adrastus / avise *and* riȝt sad, 3940
 For Grekis party / answer gaf anon
 do it only on Tideus's terms. That other endë / shortly gete* she non,
 lich as the lordis / fully ben avisyd,
 Than Tydeus hath aforon devisyd. 3944
 ¶ And whan she saugh it may non oþer be,
 Jocasta goes She lievë tok / and hom to the Cytè
 back to Thebes. She is repeirëd /, hauyng to hyr Guyde
 Polymytës Rydyng be her syde. 3948
 And Tideus ladde Antigonè,
 And of Archadye / prothonolopè,
 King Protho- The worthy kyng, did his bysy peyne
 nolope rides To ben attendaunt / vpon fair ymeyne, 3952
 with Ismene, Whos hert she hath / to her servisë luryd :
 And he ageyn hath purtraied *and* fygyryd
 Myd of his brest /, which lightly may not passe,
 Hooly the feturis / of her fressshly face. 3956
 Hym thouht she was so faire a creature ;
 And though that he durst hym not discure,
 3it in his hert / as ferforth as he kan,
 and in his heart He hath avowed / to ben her trwë man, 3960
 pledges his troth to her. vnwist to hir / pleynly *and* vnknowe

3935 to 4116 lost in I. 3936. wisly Ar. M. Ad₁. wisely Bo. Ra. onely Ad.
 3938. trete] trette Du. tretise L₁. so] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. 3939. in Ar. betwee
 On *and* eiper, is an underdotted A. 3940. this] thus Ra. P. E₂. avise Ar. G
 Advised Lb. P. E₂. Ro. full wyse L₂. wise Bo. *and the rest* (wis Ad₁. Ra.). 3941
 anon] he none Du. 3942. gete Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. E₁. L₂. getys Ar
 G. gate Lb. Ra. Ba. S. P. E₂. Ro. 3943. fully] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. 3944 is omitt
 in Ba. 3944. Than Ar. G. Du. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. L₂. Ro. As Lb. P. pat Bo. *an
 the rest*. hath afor] aforne hath G. Ro. 3953. to] in P. servise] hert S
 3955. which Ar. G. Lb. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. pat Bo. *and the rest*. lightly may] likl
 many G. 3956. of her] and the P. her] his L₁. fressshly] fressh L₁. Lb. Ad
 Ad₂. Ra. Ba. S. P. 3958. durst hym not Ar. G. Lb. Ra. E₂. L₂. Ro. dorst no
 him Bo. *and the rest*, except P. ; in P. 3958 is erased, and on the crasure a late
 hand has written with paler ink : So plesaunt and so comely of fayture. 3959
 3it] And yit Ad₂. That P. 3960. trewe Bo. trew M. Ad₁.

How he was markēd with Cupidēs bowe,
with his Arwē / sodeynly werreyed.

(leaf 66, back)

And to the ȝatē / the ladyes conueyed

3964 Jocasta and her
daughters enter
Thebes.

Ben entred In / for it^t drow* to eve,

Grekys of hem taking^t tho her leve ;

The Greeks take
leave.

Thogh some of hem wer sory to departe,

ȝit of wisdam / they durste not iuparte

3968

Vnder a conduit / to entren into toun,

lest it^t turned to her confusion.

Thouh somē bookēs / the contrarye seyn :

But myn Autour / is platly ther-ageyn,

3972 My author is
clear,

And affermeth / in his opynyoun,

That Tydeus / of hegh discrecioun,

that Tideus

Of wilfulnessē / nor of no folye,

Ne wold as tho put in Iupartie

3976 would not risk
lives by entering
Thebes.

Nowther hym-silf / nor noñ of his ferys.

And the ladyes / with her heuenly cherys,

Angelik / of look / and contenance,

Lich as it^t is / put^t in remembrance,

3980

At her entryng^t from Grekys into toun,

Polymytēs / of gret^t affeccoun,

Polyneices
begs Jocasta

The quen bysouhte / thilkē* nyght not fyne

For tasseyē ȝif she myght^t enlyne

3984 to try and make
Eteocles keep
his word.

Ethiocles, of conscience and ryght,

3965. Ben] And bethe P. drowe Bo. droweth Ar. drow M. L₂. drough Ad₁.
G. drewe E₁. E₂. it] to Ro. drow to eve] drewe night to eve Lb. drew nye
Eve P. drewe to night Ro. 3966. taking tho] tho takyng Ra. P. tho taken Ba.
taken han L₁. taking tho her leve] ther leve toke right Ro. 3969. conduit Ar. G.
Bo. M. condit Ad₁. conduct L₁. entren Bo. M. entre Lb. entere Ro. entyr
L₂. into toun Ar. G. Ro. in the toun L₂. vnto the toun S. in-to be toun Bo.
and the rest. 3970. turned] turne Ra. Ba. to] vnto M. Di. 3972. platly]
pleynly Lb. S. P. playne L₁. E₂. 3973 and 3974 omitted in Du. 3975 and
3976 transposed in Du. 3975. wilfulnessē] wofullnes L₁. nor of no] or of no
Ra. Ba. neither of M. Di. nere off P. nor of high Ro. more of G. 3976.
as tho] as then S. 3977. nor] ner Bo. Du. ne M. Ad₁. 3978. the] tho Bo.
her] om. Ad₂. E₁. heuenly] hevy S. 3981. Grekys] þe Grekes Du. Lb. P. into
toun Ar. G. L₂. Ro. into þe toun Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba.
E₁. P. E₂. vnto þe town S. 3982 in Ad₁. and Ad₂. begins with fro Grekes,
which is left out of 3981. 3982. Polymytes] Pollimite besouȝte Di. 3983.
bysouhte] besought þat E₂. om. Di. pilke Bo. Ad₁. this Ar. that M. Di. S.
om. P. nyght] om. Lb. P. not fyne] ne fyne M. not to fyne S. not for to fyne
P. þat she ne fyne Di. nat feine Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. 3984. tasseye Ar. to
assay Bo. E₁. to assaie M. Ad₁. tassaie E₂.

To kepē couenaunt / as he hath behight
 Ful ȝore agon / with the surplusage,
 List the contrarie * / tournē to damage, 3988
 First of hym-silf / and many an oþer mo.

The Greeks go
 back to their
 tents.

And thus fro Thebēs / grekys ben ago
 To her Tentys / and rest hem al that nyght.
 And Lucyna / the monē shon ful bright 3992

[leaf 67]

Jocasta tells
 Eteocles that

with-Innē Thebēs / on the chief dongoun,
 whan Iocasta made relacioun
 Vnto the kyng / and told hym al the Guyse,
 How that Grekys vtterly despyse 3996
 his profre made be fals collusioun ;

they despise
 his offer,

Only excepte / the conuencioun,
 Of old engrocyd by gret purvyance,
 which is enrollyd / and put in remembrance, 4000

and hold to his
 old agreement.

Vpon which they fynaly wil reste :
 hym counsaillinge / hir thouhte for the beste,
 To conforme hym / to that he was bounde,
 lyst in the fyn / falsnesse hym confounde. 4004

She advises him
 to keep it.

But al hir counsayl / he set it at no prys,
 he dempt hym-silf / so prudent and so wys ;
 For he was wilful / and he was indurat,
 And in his hert / of malyce obstynat, 4008

But he is

And outtrely / avisēd in his pouht,
 with-Innē Thebes / his brother get right nouht.

resolvd not to.

3988. List Ar. G. lest Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra. contrarie G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. E₁. S. P. L₂. Ro. contrayre Ar. E₂. tourne] come E₂. 3989 to 4340 gap in Ro. 3989. of] on Bo. Du. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. E₁. and] and sith of M. Di. and syth on E₁. an] om. Ba. E₁. mo] Man P (: ago). many an oþer mo] many mo M. Di. 3990. thus] om. L₁. grekys Ar. L₁. L₂. þe grekes Bo. and the rest. ben ago] þe go Ad₁. Ad₂. gan goo Ba. 3991. rest] om. Ra. that] þe L₁. Di. Ra. Ba. E₁. 3996. Grekys] þe Grekes Du. E₁. 3997. his] A L₁. collusioun] conclusion L₁. 3999. engroced Bo. engrosed M. Ad₁. 4001. they fynaly wil Ar. Lb. P. E₂. L₂. fynaly þei wil Bo. and the rest (wold Ad₂), except þei will fynally G. 4002. counsaillinge Ar. M. counceilling Ad₁. conselyng Bo. þought Bo. M. þouȝt Ad₁. 4003. conforme] confourme T₁. conferme Lb. Ra. Ba. E₁. confyrme S. hym] om. Ba. 4004. lyst Ar. lest Bo. M. Ad₁. the] om. Du. 4005. it] Ar. G. T₁. Lb. Ra. E₂. L₂. om. Bo. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ba. E₁. S. P. at no prys] att nouht Ra. Ba. 4006. and so wys] in thouht Ra. Ba. 4007. and he was] and Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. S. P. 4008. Ant Ar. 4009. vtterly Bo. M. Ad₁. 4010. with-in Bo. M. Ad₁.

And in his Errour / þus I lete* him* dwelle.

And of Grekis / forth I wil 3ou telle, 4012
which al that nyght kepte hem-silue cloos.

And on the morow / whan Tytan vp aroos, Next morning
They armyd hem / and gan hem redy make, the Greeks take
And of assent / han the felde I-take, 4016 the field.

With the Thebans / that day, out of doute,
Forto fighten / 3if they yssen oute.

¶ And Adrastus / in ful thrifty wise,
In the feld / his wardys / gan devise, 4020
As he that was / of all deceytus war.

And richely I-armyd* / in his char
Amphiorax cam with his meynè,
Ful renomyd of antiquite, 4024
And wel expert / be-causè he was old.

Amphiorax
comes out in
[leaf 67, back]
his chariot,

And whil that Grekys, as I haue 3ou told,
wer bysiest her wardys, to ordeyne,
Myd of the feld / bifyl a cas sodeyne, 4028

Ful vnhappy / lothsom, *and* odyble ;
For liche a thing / þat wer invisible,
This oldè* bisshop / with char *and* hors certeyn

¶ How Amphio-
rax fil doune into
hell.

Disaperyd / and no mor was seyne. 4032
Only of fate / which no man can repelle,

but the earth
opens ;

þe erth opnede / *and* he fille down* to helle,
with all his folk / þat vpon hym abood.
And sodeynly / the grounde on which he stood 4036
Closyd ageyn / and to-gydre shette,

he falls into
Hell ;

and the earth
closes.

4011. his] hir Bo. lete Bo. M. Ad₁. lote Ar. late Du. him] hem Ar.
4012. Grekis] þe Grekes Du. E₂. I] *om.* Bo. 3ou] *om.* Ra. Ba. 4013. kepte
M. kept Bo. Ad₁. hem-silue Ar. hem-self Bo. M. Ad₁. 4014. Tytan]
tiban Lb. þey L₁. vp aroos] vp he rose Bo. vp ros L₁. Ba. L₂. 4016. of] of
oon L₂. of assent han] han of assent Ra. Ba. I-take Ar. G. Bo. T₁. L₁. Lb. Di.
Ad₁. Ad₂. Ba. E₁. S. P. E₂. L₂. take Du. M. Ra. 4018. yssen Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁.
issue Ba. E₁. E₂. 4022. And] Full Ba. I-armyd] armyd Ar. Bo. *and all the*
other MSS. in his] him in Bo. char] chaire E₂. cheare S. 4024. Ful] Full
richelie Ba. renomyd Ar. Bo. renowned M. Ad₁. renowned E₂. of] of old Ra.
Ba. 4026. Grekys] þe Grekes Du. 4028. bifyl Ar. befel Bo. M. ther fel
Ad₁. Ad₂. fill Ra. Ba. 4031. olde Bo. Ad₁. old Ar. M. 4034. opnede Ar.
opned M. Ad₁. openyd Bo. openeth E₁. fille] went P. L₂. down] *om.* Ar. G.
L₂. 4036. on which he stood Ar. L₂. that they on stode Lb. P. that he on
rode E₂. þat he on stode Bo. *and the rest* (vpon L₁. Ad₂).

- pat^t neuer after Grekis with hym mette.
 And thus the devel / for his old outrages,
 lich his decert^t, paid^d hym his wages. 4040
 For he ful lowe / is discendid down
 Into the dirk *and* blak^e* Regyoun
 wher that^t Pluto* / is crownyd *and* ystallyd
 with his quene / proserpina I-callyd. 4044
 with whom this bisshop / ha^p made his* mansioun
 Perpetuelly / as for his guerdoun.
 ¶ lo here the mede / of ydolatrie,
 Of Rytys old / and of* fals mawmetrye. 4048
 [leaf 68] lo^t what^t auayllen Incantaciouns
 Of exorsism^s / *and* coniurisouns ;
 what^t stood hym stede his Nigromaneye,
 Calculacioun / or astronomye ; 4052
 what^t vayll^d hym / the heuenly manciouns,
 Diuerse aspectis / or constellaciouns ?
 The ende / is nat^t / bot^t sorowe and meschaunce,
 Of hem pat^t setten / her outre affiaunce 4056
 In swich^e* werk^s supersticious,
 Or trist^t on hem / : he is vngracious.
 Record^t I tak^e, shortly forto telle,
 Of this bysshop / sonken down to helle, 4060
 whos wooful ende / about^t in euery cost^t
 Swich a Rumour / hath mak^d in the host^t
- Amphiorax's
 sinking into
 Hell
4038. Grekis] *pe Grekes* Du. 4040. paid^d Ar. Bo. Lb. paid^d Ad¹. quyt M
 Di. 4042. dirk Ar. derke Bo. M. Ad¹. blake Bo. blak Ar. M. Ad¹.
 4043. wher] whor Ar. wher that] Where as T₁. Di. Pluto T₁. M. Di. Ad¹. Ad¹.
 P. Plyto Ar. Lb. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. Plito G. L₁. Plato Bo. Du. L₂. ystallyd
 stalled T₁. L₁. M. Di. Ra. Ba. S. 4045. his] is Ar. Ad¹. 4048. and of] and Ar
 Lb. P. E₂. L₂. of Ad². mawmetrye] mawmatric Bo. mawmentrie Ra. Ba. 4050
 and] and of Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. S. coniurisouns] coniuracions S. congruracions L₂.
 4051. stood hym stede Ar. G. Bo. T₁. M. Di. Ra. E₁. S. L₂. stode in stede Lb. Ad¹.
 Ad². P. E₂. stode hym in stede Du. L₁. Ba. Nigromaneye] nygramaneye Bo. Ba.
 E₁. nigrimansies Lb. 4053. vailed Bo. M. availed Ad¹. 4054. or] or th
 Ra. Ba. and T₁. of Di. 4055. not Bo. nat Du. noght Ad¹. 4056
 outtre G. vttr Bo. vtter M. Ad¹. affiaunce] assurance S. 4057. suche Bo
 M. swich Ar. such Ad¹. which G. 4058. trist Ar. Bo. M. trust Du. Ad
 treste Lb. on] of L₂. 4061. about] don Lb. down C. done P (*altered
 down by later hand, but done perfectly legible under it*). 4062. hath mak^d
 mak^d hath M. Di. hath maad T₁. Lb. Ba. E₁. S. C. E₂.

- That the noys / of this vnkouth thyng
 Is yronne / and comē to the kyngt, 4064
 how this vengeance / is vnwarly falle.
 And he anoñ / made a trumpet calle
 Alle his puple / out of the feldt ageyn;
 And euerychon / assembled on a pleyñ 4068
 To-fore the kyngt / and also rounde aboute.
 Euery man / of his lyf in doute,
 Ful pitously / gan to frowne *and* loure, makes all the
 list that the grounde hem alle wil deuoure 4072 Greeks fear for
 And Swalowen hem / in his dirkē* kave; their own lives.
 And they ne can / no recur hem to save.
 For nouthur force / nor manhode may availle
 In swiche meschief / the valewe of a maylle. 4076
 For he that was wisest / *and* koudē most
 To serche and sekē / thorgh-out al the hostt,
 Amphiorax / whan that he lest wende,
 To helle is sonken / and coude hym not diffende, 4080
 (To hym the tyme vnknewen *and* vnwistt)
 In whom whilom was al þe Grekis tristt,
 her hoolē* confort / *and* her affiaunce.
 But aH attonys / for this sodeyn chaunce 4084
 And this meschief / they gan hem to dispeire,

makes all the
 Greeks fear for
 their own lives.

As their wisest
 man

has gone to Hell
 so suddenly,

[leaf 68, back

the others
 despair,

4063. vncouth Bo. Ad₁. vncouth M. 4064. Is] hath Ba. yronne] ronne T₁.
 C. yronne and] om. S. come] ycome Bo. Du. Ra. Ba. E₁. to] vnto Lb. S. C. E₂;
 in Ar. thekyng, but the words separated by a vertical stroke. 4065. this] the Ba.
 veniance C. vnwarly] vnwardly E₁. sodenly C. 4068. on Ar. Bo. Du. L₁. E₁.
 in T₁. L₂. vpon Lb. and the rest. a] om. P. 4070. Euery] Eueryche Lb. C.
 P. E₂. in] stode in Ba. tho stood in Ra. 4071. Ful] And ful Ra. Ba.
 gan] gonne M. Di. to] om. S. frowne] sorowe Lb. C. P. E₂. 4072. list Ar.
 lest Bo. M. Ad₁. that] om. Ra. alle Ar. al Bo. M. om. Ad₁. wil] wold M.
 Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. 4073. swallowen Bo. swoluen M. Ad₁.
 swelwen E₂. swolowe Lb. P. in] in-to Ad₂. C. derke Bo. Ad₁. dirk Ar.
 derk M. 4074. ne] om. Ba. can] konne M. Di. C. E₂. to] forto Ba. 4075.
 force nor manhode] manhod ne fors L₁. may Ar. G. Lb. Ba. C. P. L₂. hem may
 Bo. T₁. Du. may hem L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. E₁. S. doeth E₂. 4079. whan
 that Ar. G. L₂. whan (om. that) Bo. and the rest. he] hym Di. 4080. coude]
 can Ad₁. Ad₂. E₁. not] om. Du. 4081. vnknewen Ar. G. M. Ad₁. vnknewe]
 Bo. 4082. al] om. Du. 4083. hole Bo. hool Ar. Ad₁. M. affiaunce]
 assurance S. 4084. this] his Ba. om. Du. Ad₂. chaunce] myschaunce Ba.
 4085. gan] gonne M. Di. hem] om. Lb. P. to Ar. G. Lb. C. E₂. L₂. om. P.
 al Bo. and the rest. in Ra. Ba. the second half of 4085 reads: seide in wordes
 fair.

and want to go
home.

Hom to Grecc / that they wil repeyre.

This was the-purpoos / of hem euerichon.

And on the wallys / of Thebës lay her foñ,

4088

Reioysing hem / of this vnhappy eure,

wenyng therby / gretly to recure.

And on her tourës* / as they loken oute,

The Thebans
chaff the Greeks,

They on Grekys / enviously gan shoute,

4092

And, of despit / and gret enmytè,

Bad hem foolys / goñ hom to her contrè,

Sith they han lost / her confort and socour*,

her false* prophete / and her dyvynour :

4096

wherthorgh / her partie / gretly is apepyryd.

And in this wisè / Grekys disespeyryd,

who think that
witchcraft works
against them.

Demptè pleynty / be tokens evidente,

This cas was falle / by soñ enchauntèment,

4100

By wichcraft* / or by* fals sorcerye,

Ageynës* which may be no remedye,

Tristy diffencè / helpè*, nor socour.

Adrastus sum-
mons his Council

And whan Adrastus herde* this clamour,

4104

he bysy was ageyn this perturbatione

To provyde / some maner chevysaunce.

And to hym calleth / such counsayl as he wiste,

to devise

For lyf or deth / that he myghte tryste,

4108

Requeryng hem / but in wordys fewe,

In this meschief / her mocion to shewe,

4086. wil] wold M. Di. Ra. Ba. 4089. Reioysing] Reioisshinge Di. eure] eu
Lb. M. Ra. vre L₁. Ad₂. P. E₂. vr L₂. cure Ba. owre S. 4090. wenyng
Sownyng E₂. gretly] om. Ad₂. recure] to haue recure M. Di. 4091. toure
Bo. M. Ad₁. tours Ar. 4092. Grekys] the Grekes Du. L₁. gan] gon T₁. Lb
M. Di. C. shoute] to shoute Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. C. E₂. L₂. 4093. despit and
gret] gret despit and Ad₁. Ad₂. Ba. S. gret despit and of Ra. enmyte Ar. Ad₁
ennemyte Bo. enemyte M. envite L₁. L₂. 4094 to 4158 lost in Ad₂. 4095
lost] om. Ba. socour Du. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ba. C. P. E₂. L₂. her socour Ar. G. Bo
T₁. L₁. M. Di. Ra. E₁. S. 4096. fals Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. 4098. Grekys] pe Greke
Du. E₂. disespeyred] dispeired Ad₁. S. E₂. 4099. tokens Bo. M. toknes Ad₁
4101. wichcraft M. Ad₁. wichcraft Ar. wycche-crafte Bo. or] and E₂. by
om. Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. Ra. Ba. S. L₂. fals] om. Lb. S. C. P. E₂. in Ar. befor
wichcraft is wh, *underdotted*. 4102. Ageyns Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. may be] be may
Ba. 4103. helpe Bo. help Ar. M. Ad₁. 4104. herde Bo. Ad₁. herd Ar. M
4105. this] the Ad₁. 4106. chevysaunce Ad₁. chevisshaunce Bo. 4107. sucl
counsayl] om. C. he] om. Lb. P. him Ad₁. wiste] list Ad₁. 4108. mygh
Bo. M. Ad₁. 4109. but in] bouten Bo.

And declare by good avisement

What to Grekys / was most expedient, 4112 the best remedy
for this trouble.
[leaf 69]

To remedyen /, and makë* no delay,

The vncouth noyse / and the gret affray

That Grekys made / with clamour inportune,

And newe / and newe / euere in oñ conture. 4116

¶ And they that wern / most manly and most wise,

Shortly saide / it wer a cowardyse,

The hegh emprise / that they han vndirtake

For dred of deth / so sodeynly forsake. 4120

It wer to hem / a perpetuel shame

And outre hyndryng / vnto grekys name ;

And better it wer / to euery werreyour

Manly to deye / with worship and honour, 4124

Than lik a coward / with the lyf endure.

For onys shamyd / hard is to recure

his name ageyn / of what estat he be.

And sith Grekes / of old antiquytè,

As of knyghthode /, who so list tak hed, 4128 Adrastus's
Council say that
as Greeks of old
were so found

Ben so famous / and so renomèd,

3if now of newe / the shynyng of her Fame

Eclipsid were / with eny spotte of blame, 4132

It were a thyng vncouth forto here,

4112. was Ar. G. L₂. were Bo. and the rest. most] more Ba. 4113. make Bo. M. Ad₁. mak Ar. ; Ar. has delaye with the final e underdotted. 4114. vncouth Bo. Ad₁. vncouth M. 4115. clamour] labour M. Di. inportune Bo. Ad₁. inportune M. 4116. And newe and newe Ar. Lb. P. and now and now Bo. and the rest, except now and S. euere in on] neuer in on Ba. in euer P. conture] contynue Bo. Du. Lb. S. 4117. first most] more Ba. ; before most is an underdotted w in Ar. second most] om. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. I. Ba. S. C. P. E₂. 4118. wer] was Ad₁. I. a cowardyse Ar. G. Lb. C. P. E₂. L₂. a grete cowardise Bo. and the rest. 4119. The hegh emprise Ar. G. Lb. C. P. E₂. L₂. The emprise Bo. and the rest. that] om. P. 4119 and 4120 are transposed in I. 4120. so] om. Ra. forsake] to forsake Lb. C. P. E₂. 4122. And] An L₁. at Bo. Du. T₁. outre Ar. G. vtter L₁. Lb. C. P. L₂. our Bo. Du. T₁. M. Di. Ad₁. E₁. S. after E₂. in I. grete Ra. Ba. vnto] to be Lb. C. P. E₂. 4123. better] bet C. to] vnto Ad₁. I. Ra. Ba. S. for P. om. Lb. 4125. endure] to endure Di. I. S. tendure Ad₁. Ra. Ba. 4128. sith] sith that E₂. Grekes] be Grekes Du. old] so old Ad₁. I. 4129. who so] whos M. C. take Bo. M. Ad₁. tak Ar. 4130. renomèd Ar. Bo. renomede M. Ad₁. (in P. a later hand has altered renomèd to renomyd, but the original spelling is perfectly legible). renomèd] worthi of deede E₂. 4132. eny spotte of blame] spot of ony shame M. Di.

Of whoes renoun / the bemës zit ben clere
 Thorgh al the world / wher as they han passyd,
 And ben not zit / dyrkyd nor diffacyd, 4136
 By no report / nouthur on se ne londe
 thyng^t to forsakë / that^t they tok on honde.
 “ And by example / of our progenitours,
 as conquerors, þat^t whilom wern / so manly conquerours, 4140
 To-forn that^t we into Grecë wende,
 Of thyng^t bygon / lat^t vs make an ende,
 And parte nat^t / nor Seure from this toun
 [leaf 69, back] they now will
 not leave Thebes Til it^t be brouht^t to destruccioun, 4144
 wallys / tourrës / Crestyd *and* batailled
 And for werrë strongly apparaylled,
 Be first^t doune betë / that^t no thyng^t be seyn,
 till it's laid low, But^t al to-gyder / with the erthë* pleyne 4148
 Be lowë* leyde / or that^t we resorte :
 so that folk
 may say “ what
 they began, they
 achievd.” That^t afterward / men may of vs reporte,
 That^t we bygan / we knyghtly han achieuyd
 Vpon our foon /, with worship vnrepreuyd.” 4152
 This was the counsaylle / shortly, *and* thavis
 To this, all the
 Greeks agree. Of the Grekys that^t manly wern *and* wys,
 That^t neuere aforn wer markyd with no blame,
 And specialy / swich as dredë* Shame, 4156
 And fully caste / what^t fortune euer tyde,
 On her purpoos / to the ende abyde,
 That^t on no part^t / her honure not apalle.

4136. zit] *om.* Lb. Ra. Ba. P. derked Bo. M. derket Ad₁. dirket Du
 diffased Bo. defaced M. Ad₁. to faced Lb. 4137. nouthur] *om.* M. Di. on se
 in see Lb. P. by see Ba. ne] ne on Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. E₁. nor L₁. Ad₁
 I. Ra. S. C. E₂. 4139. example M. ensample Bo. Ad₁. 4142. begon M
 begonne Bo. bygonne Ad₁. 4143. parte nat] nat departe Ad₁. I. 4144
 to] vnto Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. Ad₁. I. Ra. Ba. S. into L₁. 4145. Crestyd] creste
 Lb. crestes P. and crestes E₂. and batailled] Enbatayled P. E₂. 4146
 omitted in Ba. 4147. that] and Ad₁. I. 4148. erthe Bo. M. Ad₁. erth Ar
 4149. lowe Bo. low Ar. M. Ad₁. 4149 omitted in G. 4151. knyghtly] kyndely
 Du. 4154. the] *om.* Ra. Ba. 4155. wer markyd] marked were Lb. Ad₁. I.
 Ra. Ba. S. C. E₂. no] *om.* Ad₁. I. E₂. 4156. specialiche Du. M. Di. dred
 Ad₁. dred Ar. Bo. drad M. dredde Di. 4157. tyde] betyde Du
 4159. part M. Ad₁. parte Bo. her] *om.* Lb. not] ne L₁. doith P. apalle
 Ar. appalle Bo. Ad₁. enpalle Lb. P. her honure not apalle] to the e M (*her*
M. stops short, leaving the line unfinished; cp. the preceding line). what so euer
 falle Di.

And to this counsaile / Grekys, oñ *and* alle, 4160

Ben condescendyd / and, for mor happy sped,

In sted of hym / that was so latē ded,

Amphiorax / buryed / depe in helle,

That koudē whilom / to the Grekys telle 4164

Of thynggēs hid / how it shal falle, aforē :

In stede of whom / now they han hym lorē,

They casten hem / wisly to purchace

Some prudent man / to occupye his place, 4168

That in swich thyng / myght hem most availle

Thorgh mystery of his dyvynaylle,

By craft of sorte / or of profecye,

3if eny swich they couden out espye. 4172

And among al /, her purpoos to atteyñe,

[leaf 70]

As I fyndē / they han chosyn tweyne,

Most renomēd / of hem euerychoñ.

And Menolippus / callyd was the toñ,

4176

And Terdymus / ek the tother highte.

And for he hadde most fauour in her sighte,

This Terdymus / was chosen and preferryd.

And in* her choys / Grekys han not erryd ; 4180

For whilom he / lernyd / his emprise

Of his maister / Amphiorax the wyse,

And was disciple / vndyr his doctrine.

And of entent / that he shal termyne 4184

Vnto Grekys / thyngēs that shal falle,

*As a bisshop mytred in his stalle,

Terdinus is
made a Bishop.

4161. for] *om.* M. Di. E₁. mor] *om.* Lb. P. happy] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. for mor happy sped] after beste redde E₂. 4164. koude whilom to the Grekys] whilom to Grekes coude Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 4165. shal falle aforē] sholde be before Ad₂. I. 4166. In stede of whom] In whos stede C. 4169. hem] *om.* Ra. Ba. 4170. mystery M. mysterie Bo. Ad₁. 4172. espye Bo. Ad₁. aspye M. 4176. Menolippus Ar. Bo. Menalippus M. Ad₁. Menelappus P. pat oon Bo. M. Ad₁. one Du. 4177. Terdymus Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. Therdymus G. Tredinus Lb. C. P. E₂. Terdinus Ad₂. Tardynus E₁. pat othre Bo. M. Ad₁. 4179. was chosen] chose was Ad₁. Ad₂. I. chosen was Ra. Ba. 4180. in] *om.* Ar. G. E₁. choys] chose Ba. Grekys] the Grekes M. Di. S. 4181. his] this Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 4184. termyne] determyne P. 4184. *om.* in G. 4186. As Lb. C. P. E₂. And as Ar. Bo. *and all the rest.* a] *om.* E₁. S. mytred M. Ad₁. mytred Bo.

- They* don for him* / in many vncouth wyse
 In the temple / to goddys sacrificise; 418
 And thus conformed* / *and* stallyd in his Se,
 A fewë dayës / stood / in his degre,
 After his mayster / with ful gret honour,
 Of Grekys chosë / to be successour. 419
- The Thebans suffer;
 And al this tyme /, in story as is told,
 Ful gret meschief / of hungre, thrust, *and* cold;
 And of Thebans / as they issen oute,
 some are slain. lay many oñ / slayën* in the route 419
 On outhr part /, of fortune as they mette :
 her mortal swerdys / wer so sharpe whette.
 ¶ And Tydeus among hem of the toun
 Tideus Fro day to day / pleyeth þe lyoun 420
 So cruelly, wher so that he rood,
 That Theban noñ / afor his face abood.
 [leaf 70, back] He made of hem, thorgh his high renowñ,
 slays many Thebans, So gret slaughter / and occisioun* 420
 That as the deth / fro his swerd they fledde,
 And who cam nexte / leid his lyf to wedde.
 He qwitte hym-sylf / so lik a manly knyght
 That wher he went / he putte hem to the flight, 420
 and drives others back into the city. And maugrè hem, in his crueltè
 He droff hem hom / into her Citè,
 hem purswyng / proudly to the gate :

4187. They doon for hym Lb. C. P. E₂. Don þei for him Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Don for him Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba (fro). E₁. S. Don for hem Ar. G. L₂. vncouth Ar. Bo. Ad₁. I. vncouth M. sondry Ad₂. wise] guyse Ba 4188. to] to do Ad₂. I. goddys] the goddes M. Di. C. 4189. conformed Ar. confirmed Ba. E₂. stallyd] stabled E₂. 4190. A fewë] And few L₁. by fele Bo. T₁. Du. And fele Ad₁. Ra. Ba. And fell E₁. S. And man] Ad₂. I. 4192. chose Bo. M. chosen Ad₁. 4194. thrust Ar. thrust Bo thorst M. þirst Ad₁. 4196. slayn Ar. Bo. *and all the rest*. the route] the gret route Ra. 4197. outhr Ar. either Bo. M. Ad₁. 4198. sharp Bo. M. Ad₁. 4200. pleyeth] he pleyeth Ad₂. I. 4201. wher so that] that where so Ad₁. Ad₂. I. where so euer P. where so euer þat Lb. 4204. occisioun Ba. Ad₂. I. S. E₂. occasioun Ar. Bo. *and the rest* (in P. altered to occisioun by a later hand) in T₁. occasioun is underlined, and occisioun written in the right margin by a later hand; cf. 3603. 4205. fro] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 4206. who] who þat S. nexte nyghe S. leid] left S. lyf] hede Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. 4207. so] om. Ad₂. I. so lik a manly] lik so manly a Ad₁. 4208. the om. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. P. 4210. droff T₂. drofe Bo. drof M. Ad₁. drou E₂. 4211. hem] And Bo.

- That vnto hym / they bar so dedly hate 4212
- That they hem caste / by sleight or some engyn,
- To bryngyn hym / vnwarly to hys fyn ;
- And leyde awayt / for hym day *and* nyght.
- But O. alas ! / this noble manly knyght, 4216
- Vpon a day / as he gan hem enchace,
- And mortally / made hem lese her place
- And sued hem / almost to the town,
- That causè was of his destruccioun. 4220
- For on, alas ! / that on the wallys stood,
- which al that day / vpon hym abood,
- With a quarel / sharpe heded for his sake,
- Markede hym with a bowe of brake, 4224
- So cruelly, makyng non arest
- Tyl it was passyd both^e* bak *and* brest.
- Wherthorgh, alas ! / ther was non o^{pe}r red
- Nor lech^e-craft* / but* that he mot be ded, 4228
- Ther may therof be makèd non delays.
- And 3it was he / holdyn / in his dayes
- The beste knyght / and most manly man,
- As myn Autour / wel rehercè kan. 4232
- But for al that was ther no dyffence
- Ageyn the strok / of dethys violence.
- And Bochas writ / er he was fully ded,
- he was by Grekys / presentyd with þe hed 4236
- Of hym that gaf / his laste fatal wounde :
- And he was callyd /, lik as it is founde,
- Menolippus /, I can non other telle.

But one day
How pitously
Tydeus was slayn
with a quarell.

a Theban
crossbow-man

shot and kild
him.

Tho' he was
the best of the
Greeks,

[leaf 71]
he couldn't with-
stand Death.

4213. sleight] sum sleight S. crafte L₁. or some] or by some Bo. T₁. or S. of L₁. P. 4214. bryngen Bo. M. bring Ad₁. vnwarly] warly Bo. Du. to] vnto Ba. E₂. 4216. But] That Ad₂. I. ; the low point after O is in Ar. O] om. Lb. Ad₂. I. P. 4222. that] the M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 4226. bothe Bo. Ad₁. M. both Ar. 4228. Nor] ne Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₂. leche-craft Bo. M. lech-craft Ar. Ad₁. but that he L₁. Lb. Ra. Ba. P. L₂. but he C. T₂. that he Ar. G. Bo. Du. M. Di. E₁. S. E₂. that he ne T₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. mot] must Ra. Ba. S. P. 4229. maked Ar. Lb. C. T₂. E₂. L₂. made Bo. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₂. Ba. E₁. S. P. maad T₁. Ad₁. I. Ra. Ther may be mad ther-of Ad₁. Therof may be maade Ad₂. I. 4230. he] om. T₂. 3it was he] yet he was Lb. P. E₂. 4231. best Bo. M. Ad₁. 4237. gaf] gaf hym L₁. was Lb. last Bo. M. laste Ad₁. 4238. callyd] y-called Ad₁. S. is] was Bo. (in L₂. is written above was, which is crossed out).

- ¶ But thilk* day / Thebans wex so felle 4240
- ¶ He that slogh Tydeus was callyd Menolippus. King Partholope was also slain, and Ypomedon. Vpon Grekys / that vnder her Cytè The manly kyng Parthanolopè Islayen* was / euene afor the gatys ; And ther also, Armyd bright in platys, 4244
- The famous kyng / callyd ypomedoun, The samè day /, as mad is mencioun, On hors-bak / manly as he faught, At the briggè / euene vpon the draught, 4248
- Besette with pres / casuely was drownyd. And thus fortunè / hath on Grekys frownyd On euery sydè / thilk vnhappy day. But al the maner / tellen I ne may 4252
- Fortune frownd on the Greeks. Of her fightyng / nor her slaughter in soth, Mor to declarè / than myn Autour doth. But thilk* day / I fynde / as 3e may sen, whan Phebus / passyd was* merydyen 4256
- And fro the south / westward gan hym drawe, his gylte tressys / to bathen in the wawe, ¶ The Theban kyng / felle Ethyocles, Rote of vnreste / and causer of vnpes, 4260
- Eteocles The slaught of Grekys / whan that he beheld, Armyd in steel / he kam out in-to feld, rides forth Ful desirous / in that sodeyn hete [leaf 71, back] to fight Polyneices, Polymytès / at good leyser to mete, 4264

4240. thilke Bo. Ad₁. thilk Ar. M. Thebans] Thebanx Bo. Du. waxe Bo. M. Ad₁. 4241. her] the Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 4243. Islayen] Islay Ar. G. Bo. Du. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. P. E₂. slayn T₁. L₁. Lb. M. Di. C. L₂. 4244. ther also] also here Du. 4248. At the Ar. Atte Bo. Ad₁. At M. brigge Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. bregge Ad₂. brugge L₂. bridge E₂. At the brigge euene Att briggis eend Ra. Ba. euene] om. Ra. Ba. vpon] above P. 4250. frowned froned Bo. 4251. thilk] thik Ar. 4253. nor] ne L₁. M. her] of her Lb. M. Di. P. of S. 4255. thilke Bo. Ad₁. thilk Ar. M. 4256. whan] Whanne that T₂. passyd was] was passyd Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. C. E₂. L₂. was] om. P. merydyen] the meriden Ra. Ba. S. 4257. gan] can E₂. hym] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 4258. gilt Bo. M. Ad₁. 4260. causer] cause Lb. P. vnpes vnhappyes E₁. In Du. the second half of 4260 (and causer of vnpes) and the first two words of 4261 (The slaught) are omitted, and the remnants of the two lines joined into one line. 4261. Grekys] the Grekis Lb. P. peple Di. that om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 4262. out] om. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. in-to] in Ba. of P. feld Ar. G. 3e felde Bo. and all the rest. 4263. sodeyn Bo. M. Ad₁. sodeyne Di.

Syngulerly / with hym to han ado.

For in this world / he hatede no man so ;

he sat so nygh / emprented in his herte.

whoos comyng^t out / his brother gan aduerte 4268

Vpon his stede / in the opposit,

who is ready
to meet him.

And hadde ageynward^t / also gret delyt

To meten hym / ȝif fortune assente.

Thenvious fyr / so her hertys brente 4272

Eteocles and
Polyneices
attack one an-
other.

with haate Cankered / of vnkynd^e blood.

And lik two Tygres / in her rag^e wood,

with speerys sharpe / ground^e for the nonys,

So as they ranne / and mette both attоныs, 4276

Polymyt^es / thorgh platys, mayle, and sheeld

* How euerich of
the Theban breth-
eren slogh other
to-forȝ þe Cyte.
Polyneices runs
Eteocles thru,

Roof hym thorgh-out / and smette hym in-to fel^e.

But whan he sau^h / the stremys of his blood

Raylle about / in maner of a flood, 4280

Al sodeynly / of compassioun,

From his coursere / he alighte dotn,

and then dis-
mounts

And brotherly, with a pitous face,

To saue his lyf / gan hym to vnbrace*, 4284

And from his wounde / of newe affeccoun,

to pull his spear
out of his
brother.

Ful bysy was / to pulle out* the trunchoun,

4265. to] forto Ra. Ba. ado] at do Ba. to do Lb. do C. 4266. worlde Bo.
4267. emprented Bo. M. enprented Ad₁. enprintid Di. In G. the second half
of 4267 and the first half of 4268 are omitted: He sat so nygh out his brother gan
aduerte. 4269. stede M. Ad₁. steed Bo. 4270. hadde] om. Bo. 4271.
Ar. has tometen, with a vertical stroke between the two words. assente] will assente
E₂. 4272. Thenvious Bo. M. Ad₁. 4273. with] Whiche T₂. E₂. Whiche
of P. haate Ar. hete Bo. hate M. Ad₁. and the rest. cankred Bo. M. Ad₁.
Cankered] was cancred E₂. om. P. of] and of P. 4275. sharpe Bo. sharp
M. Ad₁. grounde Bo. ground M. Ad₁. grounden Ra. Ba. speerys sharpe]
sharpe sperys Ba. T₂. 4276. ranne] ronne M. Di. renne T₂. rood Ad₂. I. and]
om. Ra. Ba. and ne T₂. mette Bo. M. Ad₁. mete Lb. mette both] boþe
mette Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. 4277. thorgh] with Ra. Ba. platys] plate T₁. Lb.
M. Di. Ad₂. I. Ba. C. T₂. P. platys mayle] mayle plate P. 4278. Roof Ar. G. Di.
Bo. Rof M. Ad₁. thorgh-out] thoroh Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. T₂. smette Ar. G. Di.
smete Bo. Du. bar Ad₁. Ad₂. I. smote T₁. and the rest. hym] om. Ra. Ba. in-
to] in T₂. feld Ar. G. C. þe feld Bo. and the rest. 4280. raile Bo. M. Ad₁. of]
as Ad₂. I. 4281. Al] And Ba. Ra. (And written above Al, which is crossed out).
sodeynly] sodenliche M. Di. of] meued of Ra. Ba. 4282. coursere Ar. G. M.
Ad₁. coursour Bo. coursar L₂. alighte] light G. Du. Lb. M. Ra. Ba. S. P. L₂.
doun Ar. L₁. E₁. C. a-doun Bo. G. and the rest. 4284. vnbrace T₁. M. Di. Ad₁.
E₁. S. C. E₂. umbrace Bo. embrace Ar. enbrace G. L₁. Lb. Ra. Ba. Ad₂. I. T₂.
P. L₂. 4286. out] om. Ar. G. Ra. Ba. I₂.

On which
Eteocles

stabs Polyneices
to the heart;

[leaf 72]

so both die.

The Thebans
mourn their
king's death.

Of loue only / handlyng hym ryght softe.

But O / alas ! whil he lay alofte,

Ful yrouslly / Ethiocles the felle,

Of al this sorowe / verraye sours *and* welle,

with a dagger / in al his peynys smerte,

his brother smoot vnwarly to the herte :

which al her lyf / haddē be so wrothe.

And thus the Thebans / were yslawē* bothe

At the entrē / euene aforn the toun.

But Grekys / tho / ben availed down

Out of the feld / the worthy knyghtys alle.

And in Thebēs / loud* / as eny shalle,

The Cry aroos / whan her kyng was ded.

And to the gatys / armyd foot *and* hed,

Out of the toun / cam many proud Theban.

And some of hem / vpon the wallys ran

And gan to shoute / that pitē was to here.

And they with-out / of her lyf in were,

with-out confort // or consolacioun,

Disespeyred / ronne* hom to the toun

And Grekys folowen after at the bak,

That many on / that day / goth to wrak.

4287. handlyng] handeled M. handlid Di. holding Ba. S. ryght] ful G. L. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 4288. O] om. Ad₂. I. one E₂. alofte] on loft R. Ba. P. 4289 and 4290 omitted in Ad₂ and I.; in Ad₁ these two lines are omitted in their right place, but written in the bottom margin of the page a little bit below the column. 4291. smert Bo. M. Ad₁. smarte E₂. 4292. smoot] roff L. C. T₂. P. E₂. vnwarly] vnwardly E₁. hert Bo. M. Ad₁. harte E₂. 4293. he Bo. M. Ad₁. 4294 omitted in Ba. 4294. Ar. has a bar also between the ar Thebans. the] these P. om. Ra. Thebans] Thebanx Bo. T₁. yslawe Bo. F. G. yslowe Ar. slawe T₁ (weren s.). Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. C. yslayn T₂ (y. were). I. slayn L₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. P. 4296. tho] thus S. availed Bo. avaled M. Ad₁. 4298. And] om. E₂. in] in-to Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Thebes] Thebans Ra. B. loude T₁. M. Di. C. T₂. P. lowde Ad₂. I. L₂. londe E₁. lond Ba. S. land Bo. Lb. E₂. land Ar. G. L₁. Ad₁. om. Ra. as eny] as in eny L₁. as eue it Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. as soche thing E₂. shalle] shralle T₂. shall fa Ra. Ba. 4299. Cry] Cytce E₁. whan] pat L₁. 4303. gan] gon M. I. C. 4304. omitted in Ra. 4304. wip-oute Bo. M. lyf in altered in by a later hand to lyfes. in were] in weer Ad₂. in wyre Lb. in werre I. E₂. in where Ad₁. E₁. T₂. in fer L₂. 4306. Disespeyred] Dispeired I₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. C. P. E₂. L₂. Dessapeyryd S. Dispeired T₂. ronne Bo. T₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. E₁. C. T₂. E₂. runne L₁. ran Lb. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. P. L₂. room A roone G. to] into Ra. Ba. C. vnto S. 4307. after] om. Bo. T₂. at the A atte Bo. M. Ad₁. at E₂. L₂. atte her Ra.

And as her foomen / proudly hem assaylle

Ful many Grek* / thorgh platys *and* thorgh maylle

Many Greeks
were shot.

was shette thorgh-out, pressing at the wallys,

And betyn of / with grete rounde ballys, 4312

That her lay on / and another 3onder.

And the noysë, hydouser* than thonder,

The noise of
the guns was
hideous.

Of gonnë-shot and of* Arblastys ek,

So loude out-ronge / that many worthy grek 4316

Ther lost his lyf / ; they wern on hem so felle.

And at the gatys /, shortly forto telle,

At the gates

As Grekys prees / to entren þe Cytë,

They of Thebës / in her Crueltë

4320 the Thebaus
fight the Greeks

with hem mette / ful furious *and* wood,

And mortally / as they ageyn hem* stood,

[leaf 72, back]

Men myghte sen / sperys Shyuere a-sonder,

That to byhold / it was a verray wonder 4324

how they foyne / with daggers *and* with swerdys,

with dagger,
sword

Thorgh the vyser / amyngr* at the berdys,

Percyng also / thorgh the rownde Maylles,

Rent out peces / of ther aventaylles, 4328

That nouht availleth / the myghty Geseran,

4309. And] Ans Ar. 4310. Grek Ra. Ba. C. T₂. Grekys Ar. Bo. *and the rest.*
thorgh] thorgh-oute M. Di. platys] plate M. Di. Ad₂. I. Ba. C. T₂. P. E₂.
second thorgh] om. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. T₂. E₂. 4311. was] were Lb. M. Di.
P. shette Ar. shet G. Bo. T₁. Lb. E₁. C. T₂. E₂. shot L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
S. P. L₂. shoten Ra. Ba. porugh-oute Bo. M. porhout Ad₁. ; in Ar. (*also in Bo.*)
there is a pause-bar dividing thorgh and out. thorgh-out] thoruh Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba.
at the Ar. atte Bo. Ad₁. at M. to the Ba. 4312. grete Bo. Ad₁. gret
M. rounde Bo. round Ad₁. M. 4313. her] ther Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S.
4314. hydowser L₂. hydousher Ar. G. more hideous Bo. *and the rest.* thonder]
fel thonder Bo. G. T₁. Ba. 4315. Of gonne-shot] Of gret strokes S. and of L₁.
Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. and Ar. Bo. *and the rest.* Arblastys Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁.
Arblastres Lb. Arrowblasters L₁. arrowblastes C. 4319. As] Atte Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
Ra. Ba. E₁. S. prees] pressen M. Di. presen E₁. T₂. E₂. to entren Ar. Bo.
Ad₁. to entre M. to entyrn L₂. to enter in S. in entryng to Ra. Ba. (*into*).
4320. Cruelte] fel cruelte M. Di. T₂. 4322. ham Ar. hem Bo. M. Ad₁.
4323. myzte Ad₁. might Bo. M. a-sonder] in-sovndre Ba. 4324. was]
were L₁. a] om. G. Bo. L₁. Ad₂. I. verray] grete T₂. 4325. foyne Ar. M. Ad₁.
fuyne Bo. foynded Lb. feyne E₁. fyn S. *second with] om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. L₂.
4326. Torg Ar. vyser Bo. Ad₁. vysour M. hamyng Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Ad₁.
Ra. amying M. aymeng C. awmyng Di. E₂. armyng T₂. aryvinge Lb.
hauing L₁. Ad₂. Ba. E₁. S. hangyng I. L₂. at the Ar. atte Bo. M. Ad₁. at
E₁. E₂. L₂. at] om. Lb. 4328. aventaylles] ventaylis L₂. entailes Ad₂. I.
4329. Geseran Ar. gesseran M. Ad₁. gesseron Bo. gesseroun L₂. gestran
L₁. E₁.

- and spear. Thorgh brest / and nekkë / that the sperys Rañ.
her wepnys wern / so sharpe grounde *and* whet,
In ther armurë / that ther was no let. 4332
- Men are trodden underfoot. For ther laye on / troden vnder foote,
And 3onder* / on / pereyd to the herte roote.
Her lith on ded / *and* ther another lame.
This was / the play / and the mortal game 4336
Atwenë* Thebans / and the Grekys proude,
That the swowys / and the cryës loude
Of hem that lay / and 3olden vp the goost,
was herd ful fer / aboute in many cost. 4340
- How al the gentyl blood of grece *and* Thebes was destroyed on / o* / day. ¶ And at the gatys / and sayllyng of þe wal
Islayen* was / al the blood Royal,
Both of the toun / and of Grekys lond,
And all the worthy knyghtys of her hond. 4344
And of lordys / 3if I shal not feyne,
On Grekys syde / alyvë wer but tweyne,
Kyng Adrastus / and Campaneus.
That day to hem / was so vngracius. 4348
And for Titan / westryd was so lowe
That no man myght vnnethys other knowe,
Tho of the toun / shet her gatys faste
- The Thebans bar their gates,

4330. nek Bo. brest and nekke] nekke and brest Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. C. T₂. P (*corrected from* brest and nek). that] so L₁. sperys] myghty speres E₁. Ran Ar. M. Ad₁. ron Bo. 4331. wepenes Bo. wepens M. wepons L₂. sharpe Bo. M. Ad₁. grounde and whet] whet and ground M. grounde and] *om.* Lb. P. grounde] y-grounde (*om.* and whet) Di. 4332. ther was no let] no let was found M. Di. they were nat lette C. T₂. 4333. vnder foote] vnder þe foote Ad₁. I. 4334. 3onde Ar. G. yondre (yonder) Bo. *and the rest.* on] a-nothir S. P. pereyd pressid Ad₂. I. peresed Ba. herte Ad₁. hert Bo. M. vnto the rote (*om.* herte) T₂. 4337. A-twene Ad₁. M. Atwen Ar. Bo. Atwix Ra. Betwix Ba. Bitwene L₂. Thebaus] Thebanx Bo. T₁. Ad₁. the Thebans S. 4338. That *om.* Bo. swowys] swoughes Lb. P. E₂. swoes M. swounes E₁. showghtes L₁ showes L₂. sowtes S. swerdes Bo. 4340. many Ar. many a Bo. 4341. a the Ar. atte Bo. Ad₁. at M. and] *om.* Lb. of L₂. sayllyng] assailing Ad₁ Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. saylynges L₂. saylinge Lb. sawtyng L₁. *om.* P. of þe] att Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. on the G. L₂. before the P. 4342. Islayen] Islay Ar. Bo. *and all, except* Slayn L₁. M. Di. Ra. Ba. S. C. 4343. Grekys] þe Greke L₁. Di. Ra. Ba. S. E₂. Ro. 4345. 3if] *om.* Ro. in Ra. 4345 reads: And o the sothe if I shall nat feyne; in Ba: If I shall nat in sothe feyn. 4348 vngracius] gracious Di. 4349. westryd] westward Bo. Ra. Ba. westryd was was westrid Ad₂. I. 4351. Tho of the toun] Thei of the toun Bo. L₂. Thes of þe toun L₁. Of the toun thei Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. her] þe S. P. shet he gatys] shotte her gonnys Ra. Ba (govnes).

with barrys rounde / makëd forto laste, 4352
In which no wight^t kervë may nor hewe. [leaf 73]

And Adrastus / with a grekys fewe
Repeyrëd is hom vnto his Tent,
And al that^t nyght^t / he wastyd hath *and* spent^t 4356
For his vnhappe / in sorowe compleynyng^t.

And they in Thebes / the nexte day swyng^t and next day
bury Eteocles.
her devoyre did / *and* her bysy cure,
To ordeyne and make / a sepulture 4360
For her kyng^t / yslayën * in the feeld ;
And offred vp his baner and his sheld,
His helme / his swerd^z, and also his penoun,
Ther-Inne of gold^z / I-betyn a dragoun, 4364
high in the temple / that^t men myghte seën.

And Iocasta / that^t infortunyð quene, His mother
and sisters
mourn him.
her sonës deth / soorë * gan compleyne ;
And also ek / her 3onge doghtres tweyne, 4368
Both ymeyne / and Antigonee,
Cryden and wepte / that^t pytë was to se.
But^t to her sorowes / that^t was non refut^t.
And thus the Citë / bar / *and* destitut^t, 4372
havyng no wight^t to gouern hem ne * guye : No one is left to
rule in Thebes.
For ded and slayn / was al the Chyualrye,
And no wight^t left^t almost^t in þe toun

4352. barrys] ballis Ra. Ba. round Bo. M. Ad₁. made Bo. M. Ad₁. 4353.
may] might M. Di. 4354. a grekys fewe] Grekes a fewe L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S.
Grekes fewe Lb. P. a knightis fewe T₂. 4356. that] þe L₁. he] om. Ad₁. Ad₂.
I. wastyd hath] hasted E₁. Ro. 4357. in sorowe] and sorw Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Du.
4358. nexte Ad₁. next Bo. M. 4359. dide M. dede Bo. Ad₁. 4361.
yslayen] yslayn Ar. G. E₁. Ro. slayn Bo. *and the other MSS.* 4362. and]
an Ar. 4363 to 4418 gap in E₁, one leaf (l 1) being lost. 4363. His helme
his swerd] His swerd his helme M. Di. 4364. Ther-Inne of gold] ther in
golde Bo. I-betyn] beten Bo. Du. M. Di. S. C. P. y-bete L₂. a] om. Ba.
4365. might Bo. M. Ad₁. 4366. that] the Lb. M. Di. C. T₂. P. E₂.
infortunyð Ar. G. L₂. infortunat Bo. *and the rest.* 4367. sore Bo. M. Ad₁.
soor Ar. 4368. also ek] eke also M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. T₂. yong Bo.
M. Ad₁. om. Du. 4369. Antigonee] fair Antigone Ra. Ba. antygon Lb.
4370. to se] to se on Lb. 4371. sorowes] sorownesse Lb. that] om. Ad₁. Ad₂.
I. ther L₁. Di. Ba. E₂. 4373. to gouern hem] hem to gouerne Bo. T₁. Du. L₁.
M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. Ro. ne] nor Ar. and G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. 4374.
and] an Ar. Ad₁. 4375. left] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba.
S. Ro. left almost] almost left T₂. in þe toun] in al þe toun Ad₁. Ad₂. I.

To regne vpon* hem / by successioun. 4376

¶ But for they saugh / and tokyn also hed,

with-outē þis / that* they hadde an hed

In the Cytē / þei may not durē longe :

For though so be Comownerys be stronge 4380

with multitude / *and* have no gouernaylle

Of an hed /, ful lytyl may avaylle :

[leaf 73, back]

Therfor they han vnto her socour

ychosyn hem a newē gouernour, 4384

¶ How creauyt
þe olde Tyraunt
was chosen kyng
of Thebes.

An olde Tyraunt / þat callyd was Creon,

Ful acceptable / to hem euerichon,

And crownyd hym / with-oute mor lettyng,

Creon is elected
King by Parlia-
ment.

To regne in Thebēs / *and* to ben her kyng, 4388

Al-though* he hadde no title by discent

But by* fre choys* / made in parlement.

And ther to hym, lik as it is founde,

The Thebans
swear allegiance
to him.

By her lygeaunce / of newē they wer bounde, 4392

For to be trewē / whyl the Citē stood,

To hym only / with body *and* with good.

Thus they wer sworn / *and* suryd euerichon ;

And he ageynward / to saue hem from her fooñ, 4396

And hem dyffende / with al his fullē* myght,

And meynten hem / in al manere ryght.

This was thacord / as in sentement.

Adrastus sends

And in this whilē* hath Adrastus sent 4400

4376. vpon] on Ar. G. Lb. C. T₂. P. F₂. I₂. vp Ro. hem] om. Ro.
4377. tokyn also] toke also M. Di. C. also toke P. takyn also Ra. also taken Ba.
4378. that] om. Ar. G. hadde] han Ra. Ba. haue Ad₂. I. C. 4379. dure]
endure Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. Ro. 4380. so be] hit so
be Lb. C. E₂. comoners Ad₁. cominers M. communes L₁. comouns Ra. Ba. Ad₂.
I. commynis S. Comownerys (Ar. G. C. P. L₂.)] þat comonus Lb. E₂ (commons).
þe comoners (etc.) Bo. *and the rest.* stronge] so strong Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Ra. Ba. S. Ro.
4382. lytyl] lite Lb. M. Ad₁. C. T₂. E₂. may] it may Lb. M. Di. Ba. S. C. T₂.
E₂. Ro. 4383. Therfor] Ther Du. L₁. han] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. (cf.
4384). 4384. ychosyn Ar. Bo. Ad₁. chosen M. hem] han Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba.
S. anewe Ar. a newe Bo. a new M. Ad₁. 4386 to 4515 gap in C. 4389.
Al they Ar. L₂. As pough Bo. And al though M. Di. And thouh I. Al though
Ad₁. G. *and the rest.* 4390. by] om. Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Ad₁. S. Ro.
choys] Ioys Ar. made] emade L₂. in] a E₂. 4392. her] high Ba. 4397. al]
om. Ad₁. fulle] ful Ar. Bo. *and all.* 4398. maynten T₁. Du. L₁. mayntene
Bo. M. Ad₁. al manere] al manere of L₁. S. all their Ba. 4400. while Bo. M.
Ad₁. whil Ar.

From the Siege of Thebës the Cytè

home to Greece
the news of the

A woundyd knyght hom to his contrè,

Thorgh al Grecc / pleylnly to declare

Al þe slaughter and the evyl fare

4404

Of worthy Grekys, ryght as it is falle,

And how that he hath lost his lordys alle

slaughter of
his lords.

Att mor meschief / þan eny man can mouth.

And whan this thyng / was in grecc couth,

4408

Fyrst to Argyve / and Deyphylee,

The Grecian
ladies

And to the ladies / ek in the contrè

And of provynces / aboute hem adjacent,

They comè down /, al be on assent,

4412

Worthy queenys / and with hem ek duchessys,

[leaf 74]

And other ek / that callyd were contessys,

And alle the ladyes / and wymmen of degre

Ben assembled / in Argè the Cytè,

4416

* How alle þe
ladyes of Greece
Arayde hem
toward Thebes.
mourn.

lik as I rede /, and alle in clothës blake ;

That to byhold / the sorowe that they make,

It were a deth / to eny man alyve.

And ȝif I shuldè* / by and by descryve

4420

Ther tendre wepyng and ther wooful sownys,

her complayntys / and lamentacions,

her ofte swounyng / with facys ded and pale,

Ther-of I myghte make a newë tale,

4424

4401. in Siege the first c is written above the line, with the usual mark of insertion Ar. 4402. to] into L₁. Ra. Ba. 4405. worthy] þe worthi Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. T₂. Ro. whiche E₂. om. Ra. Grekys] knightes M. Di. 4407. Att] And Ra. eny] om. Ba. mouth] tell S. 4408. whan] whan that T₂. thyng] om. Ba. was in grece] in grece was Ad₁. Ad₂. I. T₂. couth] knowne well S. 4409. and] and to Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. T₂. E₂. 4410. to] om. Du. 4411. provynces in Ar. corrected from provinces. 4412. come M. Ad₁. cam Bo. al be on] by oonlie Ba. 4413. ek] om. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. P. E₂. 4415. wymmen Bo. M. wommen Ad₁. 4417. in the rubric Ar. has Gree. 4419. a] om. Ad₂. I. eny] many Ba. alyve] on lyve L₁. Lb. Ra. Ba. P. Ad₂. I. 4420. ȝif] om. Du. shulde Lb. shuld Ar. Bo. sholde Ad₁. shold M. descryve] bescryue Bo. 4421. Ther. ther Ar. Their. þer Bo. Their. her Du. Ther. her M. Her. her Ad₁. sownys] swowns Bo. bale E₁. Ro. 4422. and] and her Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. T₂. and her lamentacions] om. E₁. Ro. 4423. ofte Bo. M. Ad₁. her ofte] With ofte Lb. P. Of her L₁. swounyng] sownyng L₂. swounynges Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. sownes L₁. her ofte swounyng] om. E₁. Ro., which two MSS. thus make one line out of the former half of 4422 and the latter half of 4423. facys] her faces T₁. face Lb. P. 4424. might Bo. M. Ad₁.

Almost a day / 3ow to occupye.

They gather

And as myn Autour / doth clerly certifie,

Thurgh-outē Grece / from all þe Rigiouns

Out of Cities / and of Royal touns 4428

Cam alle the ladies / and wymmen of estat,

Ful hevy-cheryd / and disconsolat,

To this assemblē / afor as I 3ou tolde,

to journey to
Thebes,

In purpoos fully / her Iournē forto holde 4432

Toward Thebēs / thys sorwful creaturys,

to bewail their
dead lords.

Ther to bywaylle / her wooful auenturys,

Taqtye hem-silf / of trouth in wommanhede

To her lordys / which in the felde lay dede. 4436

And as the story / liketh to declare,

They travel
barefoot,

Al this Iournē / they went on foote bare,

lik as they haddē / gon on pylgrymage,

In tokyn of mournyng / barbyd þe visage, 4440

in dark gar-
ments,

Wympled echoñ / and in burnet weedys.

Nat in charys / drawen forth with stedys,

[leaf 74, back]

Nor on palfreys blakē nowther white,

The Sely wymmen koude hem not delite 4444

To hold her way / but barfote forth they wente,

So feithfully / euerichon they ment,

and are all true.

Thorgh hevynesse* / diffacyd of her hwe.

And as I fyndē, they weryn alle trwe. 4448

¶ Now was not þat / a wonder forto se

4426. doth clerly] clerely doth Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. Ro. certifie] specifye Bo. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 4427. Grece] all Grece Lb. P. from] in L₁. þe] om. Lb. Ra. Ba. T₂. P. E₂. 4428. Citees Bo. M. Ad₁. the citees Ad₂. I. T₂. second of (Ar. S. E₂. L₂.)] othere Du. om. Bo. and the rest. 4429. Came Bo. Come M. Ad₁. Comen Ba. the] om. Ro. 4431. To] In Ba. 4432 to the end lost in Ba. 4432. In] I E₁. Ro. om. Bo. T₁. M. Di. purpoos] Purposed T₁. M. Di. 4433. Toward Bo. M. Towardes Ad₁. 4435. of trouth in Ar. Bo. M. Ra. E₁. S. P. in troupe of Ad₁. Ad₂. I. of trouth and E₂. 4438. Iourne] meyne S. on foote Bo. T₁. Ra. T₂. L₂. on foot M. Ad₁. on fete Lb. they went on foote bare] the women went foot bare Ad₂. I (wenten). 4439. had Bo. M. Ad₁. 4440. barbyd þe visage] barfote the vyage Lb. 4441. in] with Ad₂. burnet] moornyng Ad₂. I. 4442. in] with Ad₂. I. charys] Chaires E₂. with] nor with Ad₂. I. 4443. nowther Ar. neithre Bo. Ad₁. nor M. 4445. To hold her way] Her way to hold in ese Ad₁. Ad₂. I. forth] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. Ro. 4447. Ar. has hevynesse. 4448. weren Ad₁. wern Bo. M. alle M. al Bo. they weryn alle] euerychon were G. 4449. þat] þis Bo. a] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. a wonder] a wondyr thyng Lb. P. forto] to T₂. P.

So many trewe / out of a cuntrè,
 Attonys gadryd / in a compagne,
 And feithful allè /, bookys can not lye, 4452

Both in her port / *and* inward in menyng?
 Vnto my doom / it was an vncouth thyng,
 Among a thowsand wymen outhur tweyne
 To fynden noon / that kowde in hertè feyne. 4456

It's a strange
 thing that in
 1000 or 2000
 women, none
 was a sham.

It was a mervaylle / nat ofte seyn aforñ.
 For seelde / in feldys / groweth eny corn
 But 3if some wede / spryng vp per-among.
 Men allaye* wynys / whan they be to strong; 4460

But her trouth was meynte wip non allayes,
 They were so trewe / founde at alle assayes.

And they ne stynt / vpon her iournè
 Tyl that they cam per as* they wolde be, 4464

The Grecian
 ladies reach
 Adrastus's tent.

wher Adrastus /, wrytyn as I fynde,
 lay in his Tent / al of colour ynde ;
 Gretly mervayld* / whan that he biheld
 The nombre of hem / sprad thorgh al þe felde, 4468

Clad all in blak / and barfoot euerychoñ.
 Out of his Tent / he dressyde hym anon,
 Vpon his hand / the kyng Campaneus* ;
 Ful trist in herte / *and* face right pitous, 4472

He and Cam-
 paneus meet
 them.

4450. trewe Bo. Ad₁. trew M. trew women Ra. out] *om.* Ra. a Ar. o Bo. M. Ad₁. oon Lb. Ra. 4451. gadred Bo. gadert M. Ad₁. a Ar. Bo. M. o Ad₁. 4452. alle M. Ad₁. al Bo. can Bo. konne M. 4453. her] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. T₂. port] thoght G. menyng] her mening G. Ad₁. Ra. S. her meevyng I. her moornyng Ad₂. 4455. outhur Bo. or M. Ad₁. 4456 to 4586 *lost in Bo.* 4456. To fynden Ar. T₁. Du. Lb. E₁. Not to finde E₂. To fynde L₁. *and the rest.* noon Ar. Ra. L₂. nat one Ad₁. Ad₂. I. in on S. oon T₁. *and the rest.* hert T₁. M. Ad₁. kowde in herte] coude not in herte Di. P. cowde in hert nat Ra. 4457. ofte T₁. Ad₁. oft M. seyn Ar. T₁. M. Di. T₂. L₂. sen L₁. *and the rest ; in Ar. the y of seyn is added over the word with the usual mark of insertion.* 4459 to 4572 *lost in Du.* 4460. allaye [alaye] laye Ar. G. may allaye T₂. to Ar. M. Di. *om.* G. T₁. *and the rest.* 4461. non] *om.* Ra. 4462. trewe Ra. trew M. Ad₁. 4463. stynte L₁. M. Ad₁. 4464. Tyl] Alle Ad₂. that] *om.* Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. cam Ar. come M. Ad₁. per as] per Ar. G. Di. E₂. L₂. where Lb. P. wolde Ar. wolde Ad₁. wold M. wol Lb. Ar. *has a pause-bar between they and cam.* 4467. Gretly] And gretely Lb. P. E₂. mervayld] amervayld Ar. G. T₁. T₂. L₂. biheld] behilde (; feld) Lb. Di. 4468. sprad] ysprad L₂. thorgh] in Ad₁. Ad₂. I. *om.* L₁. Lb. P. al] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. 4469. all] *om.* Di. Ra. 4471. The] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. Campaneus Ar. Campaneus G. M. Ad₂. Capaneus Ad₁. 4472. trist] tristi Ra. face] of face M. Di. right] ful Lb. P. pitous] pituous Lb. pyteous E₁.

- [leaf 75] Ageyn the wommen / forth they went yfere.
 And to byhold / the wooful hevy chere,
 They sigh and swoon The wooful cryës / also, whan they mette,
 The sorful sighys / in her brestys shette, 4476
 The teerys newe / distillyng on her facys,
 And the swownyng / in many sondry placys,
 when they see whan they her lordys / alyvë not ne founde,
 their dead lords, But in the feelde / thorgh-girt with many wounde, 4480
 face upwards. lay stark vpriztës* /, pleynty to endite,
 with dedly eyën / tournyd vp the white,
 who madë sorowe / or felt her hertë Ryve
 For hir lorde / but the faire Argyve? 4484
 Deiphile weeps who can now wepë / But Deyphylee,
 for Tideus. Tydeus / for she ne myghte se?
 whoos constreyntys* were so fel and kene
 That Adrastus myghte not sustene 4488
 ¶ How creon wil To byholde the ladyes so compleyne,
 not suffre the wisshing* his herte / parted wer on tweyne.
 bodies nowther to ¶ And ȝit, allas! / bothen* eve and morowe,
 be buried nor O thyng ther was / that doubled al her sorowe, 4492
 brent. Creon leaves That Old Creon / fader of fellonye,
 Ne woldë* suffre, thorgh his Tyrannye,
 The dedë* bodies / be buried nowther brente,

4473. forth] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. forth they went] went forth P. yfere]
 in feere L₁. Lb. Di. Ra. S. E₂. 4476. sorful Ar. M. sorghful Ad₁.
 sorrowful L₁. woful Lb. P. ferful S. sighes] sightes Lb. S. brestys] brest Di.
 hertis L₁. shette] shent S (: mett). 4478. the] so E₂. sondry] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂.
 I. placys] place (: face) Ad₂. I. 4479. her lordys alyve] on lyve her lordis L₁.
 not] *om.* S. ne] *om.* Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. P. L₂. 4480. in] on L₂. thurgh P.
 thorgh-girt] thorgh-gert M. gyrte P. many] *om.* Di. many a L₁. Lb. Ad₂. I. Ra.
 S. E₂. L₂. 4481. stark] straught E₂. vprizt Ar. T₁. Ad₁. M. and all. 4483.
 herte] *om.* Ad₂. I. 4484. the] *om.* Ad₂. I. 4485. who] And who Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
 But who Ra. S. can] ganne M. T₂. now] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 4486. Tydeus for] For
 Tideus þat L₁. ne myghte] myght nat M. Di. P. se] fele E₁. Ro (*both the copyists*
pronounced : Dépyphle). 4487. constreyntys] constretys Ar. G. T₁. S. constreytes
 L₂. compleyntis Ad₂. fel and] *om.* E₁. Ro. 4488. myghte not] ne myght nat M.
 Di. myght it not Ra. S. myght not hym G. 4490. whisshing Ar. his] her
 Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. Ro. hert T₁. M. hertes Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. parted] coruen
 Lb. T₂. P. E₂. corvid L₂. wer] *om.* L₁. Ad₂. I. S. on tweyne] atweyne Lb. S. T₂.
 P. in tweyne L₁. Ad₁. Ra. E₃. L₂. 4491. And] But T₁. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
 Ra. E₁. S. P. L₂. Ro. both Ar. Ad₁. bothe T₁. M (*cp.* 2801). eve] even L₁. Lb. Ad₂.
 I. S. E₂. 4492. al] *om.* Ad₂. I. 4493. Old Ar. olde M. Ad₁. 4494. wolde
 Ad₁. wold Ar. M. 4495. The] Tho Ra. ded Ar. M. Ad₁. dede Lb. Ra. be
 buried] to buried be Ad₁. to be buried Ad₂. I. brente] y-brente Lb. E₁. Ro.

- But with beestis and houndys to be rente. 4496 the corpses to
 he made hem aH / vpon an hepe be leyde. be torn by dogs.
- wherof the wymmen trist and evyl apeyde,
 For verray dool, as it was no wonder,
 her hertys felt almost ryve a-sonder. 4500
- ¶ And as my mayster Chaucer list endite, As Chaucer says,
 Al clad in blak / with her wymples whyte,
 With gret honour / and duē* reuerence, [leaf 75, back]
- In the temple / of the goddesse Clemence 4504 the ladies stay
 They abood the space / of fourtēnyght in the Temple
 Tyl Theseus / the noble worthy knyght, till Theseus
 Duk of Athenys / with his Chyvalrye comes with
- Repeyrēd hom / out of Femynye, 4508
 And with hym ladde / ful feir vpon to sene,
 Thorgh his manhod / ypolita the quene, Hippolita and
 And her suster / callyd Emelye. Emily.
- and whan thies wommen / gonnē first espye 4512
 This worthy Duk / as he cam rydyngē,
 Kyng Adrastus /, hem alle conveyinge,
 The wommen brouht vnto his presence,
 which hym bysought / to ȝive hem audience. 4516 They pray
 And aH attonys swownyng in the place, Theseus
 Ful humblely / preiden* hym of grace to redress their
 To rewe on hem / her harmys to redresse. grievance.
- But ȝif ȝe list / to se the gentyllesse 4520
 Of Theseus / how he hath hym born,

4498. wherof] Ther-of M. Di. Wherefore S. wymmen Ad₁. wommen M.
 trist] were trist Ad₁. Ad₂. I. trist and] om. Lb. P. evyl] well L₁. ben
 evel Lb. were evell P. 4999. as] om. T₁. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
 Ra. E₁. S. Ro. 4500. felt T₁. M. Ad₁. þei felte Di. ryve] reyne
 E₁. Ro. almost ryve] riue almost Ad₁. Ad₂. I. a-sonder] on sounder L₁.
 in sonder Ro.; Ar. has a pause-bar after almost. 4501. my mayster]
 myn auctour M. Di. Chaucer] om. T₁. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S.
 Ro. endite Ar. G. L₂. to endyte T₁. and the rest, except forto endite Ad₂. I.
 4503. due] dieu Ar. 4504 to the end lost in Ad₂. 4505. abood] bode E₂.
 fourteenyght Ar. Lb. P. fourteen night M. Di. Ad₁. fortynyght T₁. E₁. Ro.
 fortyn nyght S. fortynyght Ra. L₂. a fortenyȝt L₁. E₂. fourtene nightes T₂.
 4508. hom] hem E₂. Femynye] Femenye P. femeny L₁. L₂. femyne T₂.
 femene S. 4512. these M. þise Di. Ad₁. wymmen M. Ad₁. gon M.
 gan Ad₁. gonne first] first gan E₂. 4514. alle] om. Ad₁. I. 4515. vnto Ar.
 T₂. P. E₂. into Lb. to T₁. and the rest. 4518. humbly M. Ad₁ humbely
 Di. preide Ar. and all.

3if 3e remembre / 3e han herde it^t to forñ
wel rehersyd / at Depforth in the vale,
In the bygynnyng^t / of the knyghtys tale :

4524

¶ How the fynal
destruccion of
Thebes is com-
pendeously re-
hersyd in þe
knyghtes tale.

Theseus, as
Chancer says,
comforts the
Grecian widows.

¶ First how that he / whan he herd hem speke,
For verray routhē* felt his hertē / breke ;
And her sorowys / whan he gan aduerte,
From his courser / doun anon he sterte,

4528

Hem confortyng^t in ful good entente,
And in his Armys he hem aȝ vp hente.

The knyghtys tale / rehersetȝ euery del

Fro poynt^t to poynt^t / 3if 3e lookē* wel,

4532

[leaf 76]

He goes to
Thebes,

And how this Duk / with-oute more abood,

The samē day / toward Thebēs rood,

Ful lik in soth / a worthy conquerour,

And in his hoost^t / of Chyualrye the flour.

4536

slays Creon,

And fynally, to spekyn of thys thing,

with old Creon / that was of Thebēs kyng^t,

how that he faught^t / and slough hym lik a knyght^t,

and puts his host
to flight.

(Some say the

And aȝ his host^t / putte vnto the flyght.

4540

¶ 3it, as some auctours makē mencioun,

Or Theseus entred into toun,

women beat
down the wallys
of Thebes,

The wōmen first with pikkeys *and* with mallys,

with gret labour / betē doun the wallys.

4544

And in her writyng also as they sayn,

Campaneus / was on the wallys slayn,

with cast^t of ston / he was so ouerlade ;

For whom Adrastus / such a sorowe made

4548

and that Jo-
casta and her
daughters

That no man myght^t reles hym of his peyne.

And Iocasta /, with her doghtres tweyne,

4522. 3e] as ye E₂. haue T₁. M. Ad₁. herde] hard Ra. T₂. Ro. 4523. Depford
M. Ad₁. Depworth P. 4524. bygynnyng] gynnyng Di. 4525. that] om.
Ad₁. I. he] om. I. 4526. routh Ar. Ad₁. pite I. 4528. he] sterte Ar
4530. he] he gan Ra. 4532. loke T₁. M. Ad₁. look Ar. loke hit Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂
4540. the] om. Ad₁. I. E₁. S. 4541. 3it] And C. make] maken T₁. Ad₁
4542. into] vnto S. toun Ar. G. L₂. þe toun T₁. and the rest. 4543. pykoys M.
Ad₁. pekoys E₂. pikes S. 4544. bete M. beten Ad₁. 4547. ston] stoones Lb.
E₂. over-ladde L₁. S. ouerlayde Lb. T₂. over-thowe P. ouerlade Ar. T₁. M. Ad₁
and the rest. 4548. such a] such T₁. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. I. Ra. E₁. S. Ro. made] brayde
Lb. made such a sorwe P. 4549. That] Tat Ar. no man] no þing Ad₁. I
myght] may Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. reles hym] hym reles E₁. T₂. Ro. hym of] om. S

Ful woofully oppressyd of her cherys,

To Athenës wer sent^t as prysonerys.

4552 were sent to
Athens.)

What fil of hem more / can I not^t seyn.

But Theseus /, myn Autour writ certeyn,

Theseus levels
Thebes with
the ground.

Out^t of the feld / or he fro Thebës wente,

He bete it^t downe / and the howsys brenté,

4556

The puple slough / for al her crying^t loude,

Maad her wallys / and her towrys proude

Rounde aboute /, eueue vpon a rowe,

with the Soyle / to be laide* ful lowe

4560

That nouzt was left^t / but the soyle al bare.

And to the wommen / in reles of her care,

The bonys of her lordys / that^t were slayn

This worthy duk / restoryd hath agayn.

[leaf 76, back]
¶ How Duk The-
seus delyuered to
the ladies the
bodies of her
lordys.

4564

¶ But what^t shuld I / any lenger dwelle

The oldē* Ryytys / by *and* by to telle,

Nor thobsequies / in ordre to devise ;

Nor to declare / the manere *and* the Guyse

4568 I shan't describe
the burning of
the bodies,

how the bodies / wer to Asshes brent,

Nor of the gommës / in the flaumbë spent,

To make the ayre* / swetter of relees,

As fraunc encence / Mirre *and* Aloës ;

4572

Nor how the wommen / round^t aboutë stood,

Somë with mylk / and some also with blood,

And some of hem with vrnës made of gold,

whan the asshes fully weren made cold,

4576 or the gold urns
that the ashes
of some were
put in,

Tenclosyn hem of gret^t affeccioun

And bern hem hom / into her Region ;

4553. of] vpon P. more Ar. G. Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. om. T₁. and the rest. can I] I can T₁. I. P. (see Notes). 4558. second her] om. Ad₁. I. 4559. aboute M. Ad₁. 4560. lade Ar. 4563. bonys] bodies Lb. M. Di. C. T₂. P. E₂. (see Notes). her] the C. P. 4565. what] om. L₂. any lenger Ar. G. Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. þan lenger L₁. M. Ad₁. I. E₁. S. Ro. lenger thanne T₁. Ra. lenger now Di. 4566. olde M. Ad₁. old Ar. 4567. Nor] For Di. the obsequies M. Ad₁. 4568. Nor] Ner Lb. nethir P. to] om. G. Lb. E₂. and] nor T₂. ne Lb. gyse M. Ad₁. 4570. Nor] Ne Lb. Di. P. in] of Di. flaume T₁. M. Ad₁. E₂. flamme G. E₁. T₂. flame S. flawmes Ra. 4571. ayr M. Ad₁. hayre Ar. 4572. frank encence M. Ad₁. and] om. Ad₁. 4574. and] om. Ad₁. I. 4576. were M. Ad₁. 4577. To enclosen Ad₁. To enclose M. gret] ful gret C. 4578. bern Ar. bere Ad₁. borne M. Di.

- And how that other / ful dedly of her loke,
 For loue only- / of the bonys tooke, 4580
 Hem to kepē / for a remembraunce :
 That to reherce / euery obseruaunce
 That was don / in the fyrës bright,
 or the games, The wakē-playēs / duryng al the nyght, 4584
 or wrestling, Nor of the wrastlyng / to telle poynt be poynt,
 Of hem that werē * / nakyd *and* enoynt,
 how eueriche other luggē gan and shake ;
 or the taking Nor how the wommen han her levē take 4588
 leave of Theseus. Of Theseus / with ful gret humblesse,
 Thankyng hym of his worthynesse
 That hym lyst vpon her woo to rewe ;
 And how that he, his fredam to renewe, 4592
 [leaf 77] with the wommen, of his hegh largesse,
 ypartyd hath / ek of his Richesse ;
 Theseus goes ¶ And how this Duk Thebēs ek forsoke
 to Athens. And to Athenys / the righte wayē * tooke, 4596
 with laurer crownyd / in signe of victorie,
 And the palme of conquest *and* of glorie,
 Did his honour / duely to marte ;
 And how the wymmen wepte whan they departe * 4600
 with kyng Adrastus / hom ageyn to Arge :
 Kyng Adrastus ¶ To tellyn al, it * wer to gret a charge,
 with the ladyes repeyred hom ageyn to Arge. ¶ And ek also, as 3e shal vnderstonde,
 At the gynnyng I took no mor on honde 4604
 Be my promys, in conclusioun,
 But to rehercē the destruccioun

4582 to 4676 lost in I. 4582. reherce Ar. *and* all. 4585. Nor] Ne Lb. P.
 of] for G. the] *om.* Ro. wrastlyng] wrestlyng Ro. wrostelyng L₂. wraxling S.
 to] *om.* C. to telle] telling T₂. E₂ L₂. *om.* Lb. P. 4586. wern Ar. M.
 weren Di. were Ad₁. 4588. han M. haue Bo. Ad₁. 4589. ful] *om.*
 Ad₁. Ra. P. 4592. that] *om.* Ra. to Ar. G. Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. gan Bo.
and the rest. 4594. yparted] And parted Di. Parted T₁. C. 4596.
 right Bo. M. Ad₁. weye T₁. Ra. E₁. E₂. way Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. righte
 weye] way right he Ad₁. right wey he P. 4597 to 4658 lost in Lb.
 4598. *second* of] *om.* Ra. E₁. Ro. 4600. wepte M. wept Bo. Ad₁. they] he
 L₂. departe] parte Ar. G. T₂. P. E₂. 4601. Arge] Arche L₂. 4602. it] *om.*
 Ar. G. L₂. a] *om.* T₁. T₂. 4603. shal Ar. Ad₁. shul Bo. M. sholde E₁. Ro.
 4604. At the Ar. Atte Ad₁. At Bo. M. gynnyng] Bygynnyng P. L₂. took]
 take Bo. Du. Ra. P.

Adrastus dies. Thebes destroyed 400 years before Rome founded. 189

Of myghty Thebes / shortly, *and* no more.

And thus Adrastus, with his lokkys hore,
Stille abood in Argë his Cytè

4608 *Adrastus stays
in Argës,*

Vnto his ende / : 3e gete no more of me,
Sauf, as myn auctour / liketh to compyle,
After that he lyuëd but a while ;

4612

For he was old er the siegë gan,
And thought and sorowe so vpon hym ran ;
The which in soth shortyd hath his dayes.

*but the trouble
of the Siege
shortens his life.*

And, tymë sette, deth makeþ no delayes,
And al his Ioyë / passid was and goñ,
For of his lordys / alyvë was not on
But slayn at Thebes / , 3e knowën al the cas.

4616 He dies,

and whan this kyng / in Argë buryed was
Ful Ryaly / with gret solempnyte,

4620 *and is buried.*

It was accountyd / , in bookys 3e may Se,
¶ Four hundred 3eer / , as mad is mencionn,

To-foor the beelding / and fundacioun

4624

*[leaf 77, back]
CCCC 3ere to-fore
þe fundacioun of
Rome was Thebes
destroyed.*

Of gret Rome / so Ryal and so large,
whan the ladies / departyden * from Arge
To her contrës / ful trest *and* desolat.

lo: her the fyn / of kontek *and* debat.

4628

Lo: her the myght of Mars the froward sterre.

Lo: what it is: for-to gynne a werre.

¶ How it concludeth / ensample 3e may se

First of Grekys / and next of the Cytè :

4632 *Thebes.*

4608. his] *om.* Bo. 4609. his] the G. 4613. gan Ar. G. C. T₂. L₂.
began Bo. *and the rest.* 4614. sorowe Bo. sorw M. Ad₁. 4616. And
tyme] atte tyme Ad₁. deth] *om.* P. 4617. al] *om.* Du. passid was] is passed
Ad₁. 4619. slayn at Thebes] atte Thebes slayn Ad₁. al] *om.* Ad₁. 4620.
in Arge] *om.* Ad₁. 4621. ryally Bo. M. royally Ad₁. 4622. accountyd
Ar. Ad₁. accountyd Bo. acoemptid L₁. counted M. 3e may] as ye may L₁. Ad₁.
4623. hundred Ad₁. hundreth Bo. hondred M. CCCC yere C. 4624.
belking Bo. Ad₁. bildyng M. 4625. grete Bo. gret M. Ad₁. the grete P.
ryal Bo. M. roial Ad₁. hye P. Royally E₁. Ro. *second so]* *om.* Ad₁. 4626.
departyden] partyd Bo. G. departyd Bo. *and all the other MSS. (see Notes).*
4627. tryst Bo. Ad₁. 4628. kontek] contexte L₁. and] of Di. 4629. *second*
the] þat L₁. froward Ar. G. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. mighti Bo. *and all the rest.*
4630. forto Ar. G. M. Di. Ra. to Bo. *and the rest.* gynne] begynne L₁. S. C. T₂.
P. E₂. L₂. 4632. Grekys] þe Grekes Bo. L₁. E₂. next] sith G. Ad₁. S. C. T₂.
P. E₂. sithen Ra. the] this Ad₁. the Cytè] Thebes þe Cytè L₁. P. the Thebans
cite E₂.

- For owther parte / hath matere to compleyne.
 And in her strif / 3e may se thynggës tweyne :
- ¶ The worthy blood of Grece was destroyed at the siege and the Cyte fynaly brought to nought.
 ¶ The worthy blood of al grece spilt,
 And Thebës ek /, of Amphion first bylt, 4636
 With-oute Recur / brouht vnto Ruyn
 And with the soyle made pleyn as a lyne,
 To wyldernessë turnyd / and desert,
 And Grekys ek / falle into pouert, 4640
 Both of her men / and also of her good ;
 For fynaly / al the gentyl blood
 was shad out ther /, her woundys wer so wyde,
 To los fynal vnto outhur syde. 4644
- In war,
 high and low,
 both suffer.
 For in the werre is non excepcioun
 Of hegh estat / nor lowh condicioun,
 But as fortune / and fatë, both yffere,
 List to disposë / with her double chere, 4648
 And Bellona* / the goddes in hir char
 Aforne provydeh / ; wherfor ech man be war
 Vnavysed / a werrë to bygynne.
 For no man woot who shal lese or wyne. 4652
- [leaf 78]
 Both sides
 are damaged
 by war.
 And hard it is whan eyther party leseth.
 And doutëles / nowther of hem cheseth
 That they most / in al swich mortal rage,
 Maugrë her lust /, felyn gret damage. 4656
 It may nat be by mannys myght restreyned.
 And werre in soth / was neuer first ordeyned

4633. owther Ar. eyther Bo. M. Ad₁. parte] partie Di. hath] om. Di.
 hath matere] mater hath M. 4635. grece] grekes S. 4636. first] om.
 Ad₁. 4638. soyle Bo. M. soil Ad₁. a] ony C. T₂. P. E₂. 4639.
 wyldernesse Ar. wilderness Bo. 4640. ek] om. M. Di. falle Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁.
 fallen Ra. S. P. L₂. full L₁. brouzte Di. into] in Ad₁. to Ra. 4641. also]
 om. Ad₁. 4644. To los fynal vnto] vn-to gret los of Ad₁. outhur Ar.
 eyther Bo. M. Ad₁. þe tother G. every S. P. 4649 and 4650 are transposed
 in M. Di. 4649. Bellona] Belliona Ar. G. 4650. wherfor Ar. G. T₂. E₂. L₂.
 þer-fore Bo. and the rest. ech] euery C. T₂. P. E₂. 4652. woot] om. Ra. lese
 M. Ad₁. lees Bo. 4653. And hard it is] Ne wot and hard is Ra. whan] where
 P. eyther Ar. Bo. M. euery P. party Bo. part M. eyther party leseth]
 bope parties leseth Ad₁. Ra. S. 4654. nowther Ar. Bo. Ad₁. neither M.
 nowther of hem] neþer party P. 4655. swich] sewyth G. rage] rache M.
 4656. lust M. Ad₁. list Bo. felyn Ar. C. T₂. E₂. L₂. fallyn in G. fall to P.
 folowe Bo. and the rest.

But for synne folkis to chastyse.

And as the byble / trewly kan devyse,

4660 ¶ How that
werre byganne
in heuene by the
pride and sur-
quedye of Lu-
cyfer.

Hegh in heuene / of Pryde *and* Surquedye,

Lucyfer, fader of Envie,

The olde Serpent /, he levyathan,

Was the first / that euer werrë gan :

4664

Whan Michael /, the heuently Champioun,

with his Feerys / venqwisshyd the Dragoun,

And to hellë / cast hym downe ful lowe.

The whiche serpent hath the Cokkyl sowe

4668 ¶ lollium

Thorgh al erth / of envye *and* debat,

Envy rules now

That vnnethys / is ther noñ estat,

with-outë stryf / can lyve in Charitë.

For euery man / of hegh *and* lough degrë,

4672

Envyeth now / that other shulde thryve.

And ground and causë / why that men so stryve,

Covetousness
and Ambition

Is coveytise / and fals Ambicioun,

That euerich wold han domynacioun

4676

Ouer other, and trede hyñ vndyr foote :

which of al sorowe / gynnyng is *and* Roote.

are the roots
of all evil.

And Crist recordyth /— red luk * *and* 3e may se—

For lak of love / what meschief þer shal be.

4680 ¶ Surget gens
contra gentem,
Luce xxi^o.

For .O. puple / as he doth devyse,

Agayn anoþer / of hatë shal aryse.

And after tellith what dyvisions

[leaf 78, back]

4659. for synne Ar. G. Ra. E₁. S. L₂. Ro. for synful Bo. T₁. L₁. Lb. M. Di. (Ad₁.) C. T₂. P. E₂. folkis] folke L₁. Lb. C. T₂. P. sinful folkes for to Ad₁. 4661. in the rubric Ar. has pde and suquedye. 4662. om. in P (a later hand has written in the margin : firste ye shall vnderstonde and se). 4662. fader] the fader C. that fader T₂. Envie] al enuye C. cursed envie Ad₁. 4663. olde Bo. he] the Ra. 4664. the] þo Bo. euer] om. S. werre] syu M. Di. gan Ar. began G. Bo. and the rest. 4666. venquished Bo. M. Ad₁. Feerys] felowes S. 4668. whiche Bo. M. which Ad₁. Cokkyl Ar. kokkel Bo. Ad₁. kockle M. cockal Ra. in Ar. before serpent is ko, underdotted. 4669. Torgh Ar. al erth] al the erthe Ad₁. S. E₂. 4670. vnnethys] vnnethe Lb. vnneth P. non] ony T₁. Lb. M. Di. eny Ad₁. any P. estat] stat M. Di. astate Lb. P. 4673. shold M. shal Bo. 4674. that] om. Ra. S. stryve] seryue E₁. Ro. 4675. Ambicioun] abusion Ad₁. 4676. haue Bo. M. Ad₁. 4677. Ouer] Of G. 4678. sorowe Bo. sorw M. Ad₁. gynnyng] gynner M. Di. 4679. Crist Bo. M. Ad₁. Christ E₂. luke G. C. P. L₂. luce T₂. loke Lb. looke E₂. bok Ar. þe boke Bo. and the rest. 4680. what] om. Ad₁. I. þer shal] shal þer Bo. T₁. Ad₁. I. S. 4681. puple Ar. G. peple Bo. M. people E₁. E₂. Ro.

- Ther shal be / atwixë* regyouns, 4684
 Eueriche bysy / other to oppresse.
- Strife starts And al swichë strif /, as he berth wytnesse,
 Kalendys ben /, I take his word to borowe,
 sorrow. And a gynnyngt / of meschief and of sorowe : 4688
 Men haue it founde / be experience.
- But War But the venym / and the violence
 Of strif, of werre / of contek, *and* debat,
 That makeþ londys bare *and* desolat, 4692
 shall cease ; Shal be proscript *and* voyded out of place,
 And Martys swerð / shal no more manace,
 Nor his sperë* / greuous to sustene,
 Shal now no morë* / whettyd* be so kene, 4696
 Nor he no morë* / shal his hauberk shake.
- Love shall But loue and pees / in hertys shal awake,
 And charitë /, both in length *and* brede,
 spread. Of newë shal her bryghte beemys sprede 4700
 Thorgh grace / only : in dyuers naciouns,
 Forto reforme / a-twixë* Regyouns
 Pees and quyet / concord *and* vnyte.
- Christ, who And he that is / both on / *and* two / *and* thre, 4704
 is God Ek thre in oñ / *and* souereyn lord of pes,
 Which in this exil / for our sakë ches,
 For loue only / our troubles to termyne,
 and man, For to be born / of a pur virgyne : 4708
 let us pray Him, ¶ And lat vs prey / to hym that is most good,

4684. be] *om.* L₁. atwix Ar. Ra. a-twene Bo. M. Ad₁. betwyxt L₂.
 betwene Lb. 4686. berth Ar. bereth Bo. berith M. Ad₁. 4687. ben]
 thei ben C. borowe Bo. borw M. Ad₁. 4689. haue Bo. han M. Ad₁.
 it] *om.* Bo. 4690. venym] venom M. Ad₁. 4691. of werre of contek] of
 contek of werre Ad₁. I. S. contek werre Ra (*both of om.*). and] and of E₂.
 4693. be] *om.* Ra. S. proscripte Ar (*with e underdotted*). be proscript] proscript
 be Ad₁. I. voyded] voide L₁. Lb. P. voiden Ra. 4694. Martys] mars S.
 swerd] swerdes E₂. 4695. spere Bo. M. Ad₁. sper Ar. 4696. now] *om.* T₁.
 Di. Ra. C. T₂. more Bo. M. mor Ar. Ad₁. whettyd] whtyd Ar. 4700.
 bright Bo. M. Ad₁. 4702. reforme M. Ad₁. reforme Bo. a-twix Ar. G.
 a-twene Bo. M. Ad₁. Lb. atween Ra. bytwene L₂. 4703. first and] *om.* Ad₁.
 I. 4704. he] *om.* Bo. S. is] *om.* I. both] *om.* Lb. L₂. both on] on both S.
second and] *om.* L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. I. Ra. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. 4706. sake] lone
 C. ches] these E₁. Ro. 4707. For] *om.* I. loue] *om.* Ad₁. I. troubles] trouble-
 nesse Ad₁. trouble I. to] for to do I. 4708. pur] clene G. 4709. to] *om.*
 Ad₁. I.

Which for mankynde shadde his hertē blood,

Thorgh byseching / of that heuenly quene,

thru his Mother,

Wyff and moder and a Maydē clene,

4712

To sende vs pes / her in this lyf present,

[leaf 72]

And of oure synnys / parfit amēdement,

to send us peace
here

And Ioye eternal / whan we hennēs * wende.

and joy here-
after.

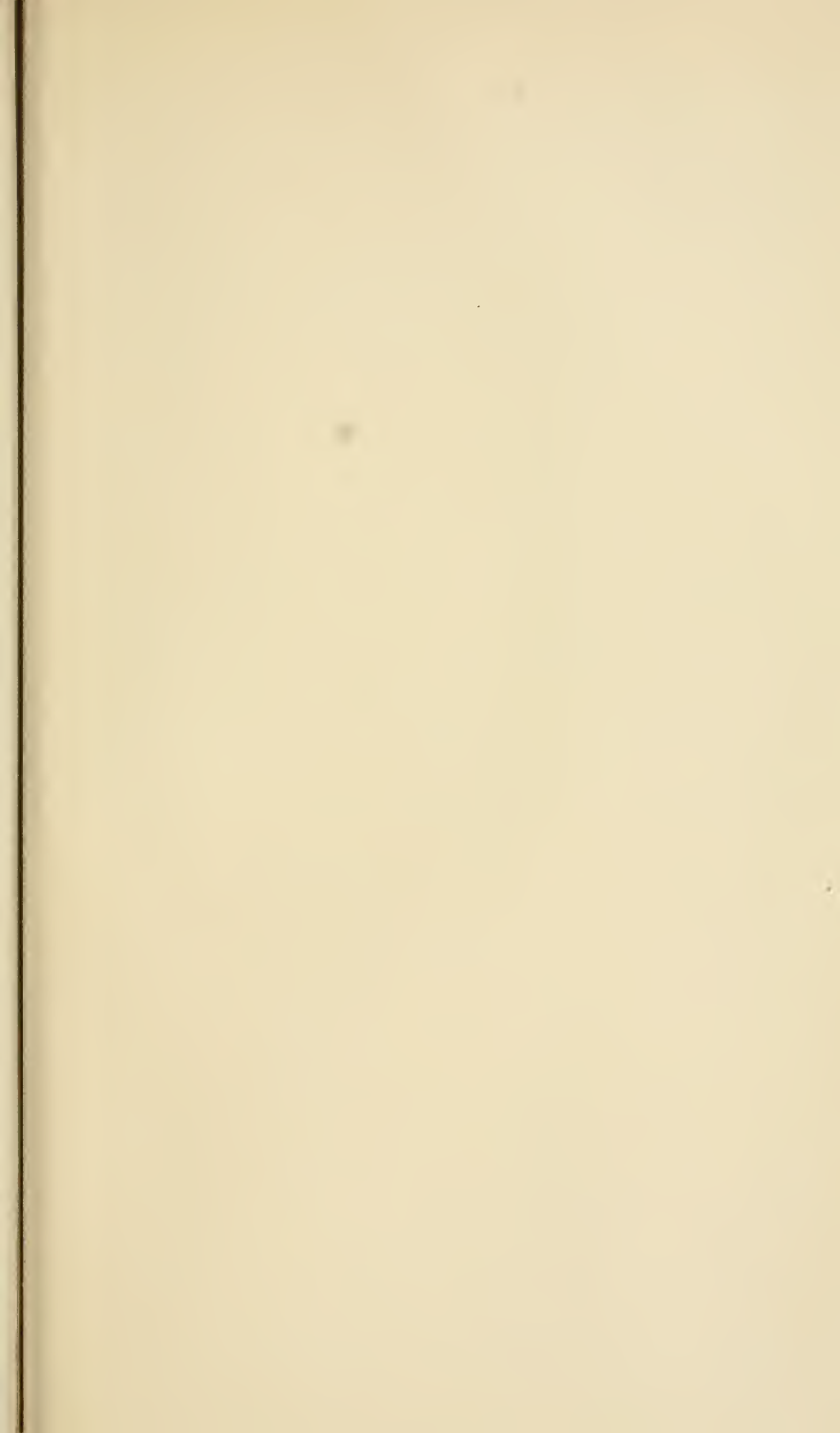
Of my talē / thus I make an ende. **Explicit.**

4716

Here endeth the destruccioun of Thebes.

4710. Which Ar. G. L₁. Ra. L₂. Ro. pat Bo. and the rest. mankynd
Ar. L₂. mankend G. mankinde M. Ad₁. and the rest, except man-kyn Bo.
T₁. shadde Ar. shad Bo. M. Ad₁. shed E₁. S. Ro. herte T₁. hert Bo. M.
Ad₁. precious S. 4711. byseching] þe besechyng Bo. L₁. Lb. Di. P. that] the
P. 4712. first and] om. P. a] om. Lb. M. Ad₁. I. Ra. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. Mayde
Ar. Bo. T₁. Ra. E₁. L₂. Ro. mayden G. L₁. and the rest. 4714. amedement Ar.
4715. hennes Bo. Ad₁. hennys L₂. hens Ar. M. 4716. Of] And of Lb. Ad₁.
I. C. T₂. P. E₂. G (the whole line supplied by a late hand, see Introduction). M.
and T₂. add Deo gracias.







13. Thynne's *Animadversions* (1599) on Speght's *Chaucers Workes*, re-edited from the unique MS., by Fredk. J. Furnivall, with fresh Lives of William and Francis Thynne, and the only known fragment of *The Pilgrim's Tale*.

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15. *Originals and Analogues of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales*, Part III. 13. The Story of Constance, for the *Maid of Law's Tale*. 14. The Boy killed by a Jew for singing 'Gaude Maria,' an Analogue of the *Prioress's Tale*. 15. The Paris Beggar-boy murdered by a Jew for singing 'Alma redemptoris mater!' an Analogue of the *Prioress's Tale*; with a Poem by Lydgate. Edited by F. J. Furnivall.

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17. *Supplementary Canterbury Tales*: 1. The Tale of *Beryn*, with a Prologue of the merry Adventure of the Pardoner with a Tapster at Canterbury, re-edited from the Duke of Northumberland's unique MS., by Fredk. J. Furnivall. Part I, the Text, with Wm. Smith's Map of Canterbury in 1588, now first engraved from his unique MS., and Ogilby's Plan of the Road from London to Canterbury in 1675.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for 1878 (there was none in 1877) is,

18. *Essays on Chaucer, his Words and Works*, Part IV. 11. On *here* and *there* in Chaucer (his Pronunciation of the two *e's*), by Dr R. F. Weymouth: 12. On *a*. An Original Version of the *Knigh's Tale*; *β*. the Date (1381) and Personages of the *Parlament of Foules*; *γ*. on *Auelidu* and *Areyte*, on Lollins, on Chaucer, and Boccaccio, &c., by Dr. John Koch, with a fragment of a later *Palamou* and *Ersyte* from the Dublin MS D. 4. 18.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for 1884 (none in 1879, '80, '81, '82, '83, '85) is,

19. *Essays on Chaucer, his Words and Works*, Part V: 13. Chaucer's *Pardoner*: his character illustrated by documents of his time, by Dr J. J. Jusserand. 14. Why the *Romannt of the Rose* is not Chaucer's, by Prof. Skeat, M.A. 15. Chaucer's *Schipman*, and his Barge 'The Maudelayne,' by P. Q. Karkeek, Esq. 16. Chaucer's *Parson's Tale* compared with Frère Lorens's *Somme de Vices et de Vertus*, by Wilhelm Eilers, Ph.D., 1882, englisht 1884. 17. On Chaucer's Reputed Works, by T. L. Kingston-Oliphant, M.A.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for 1886 is,

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21. *Life-Records of Chaucer*, Part III, *a*. The Household book of Isabella wife of Prince Lionel, third son of Edward III, in which the name of GEOFFREY CHAUCER first occurs; edited from the unique MS in the Brit. Mus., by Edward A. Bond, LL.D., Chief Librarian. *b*. Chaucer as Forester of North Petherton, Somerset. 1390—1400, by Walford D. Selby, Esq. With an Appendix by Walter Rye, Esq., on I. Chaucer's Grandfather; II, Chaucer's connection with Lynn and Norfolk.

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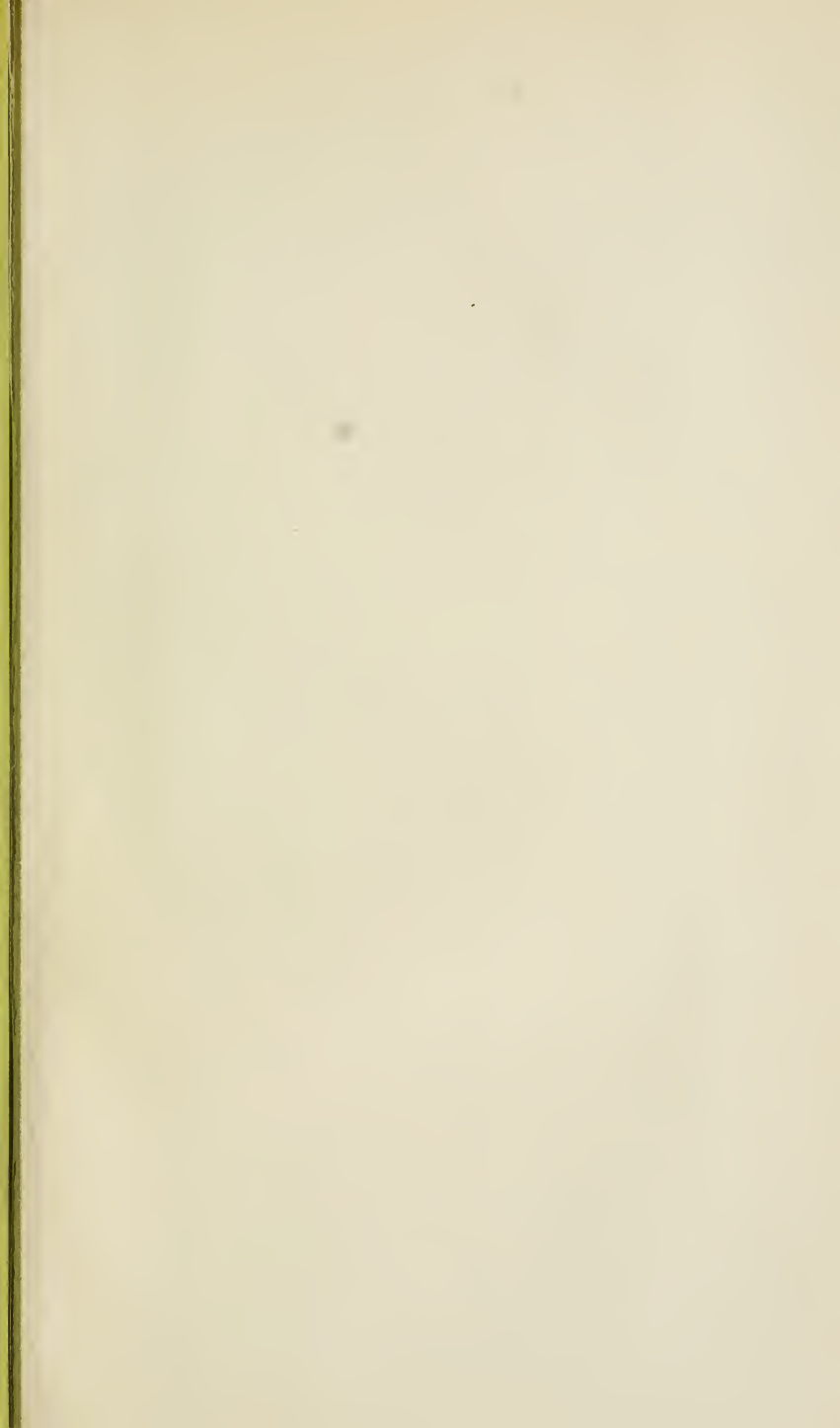
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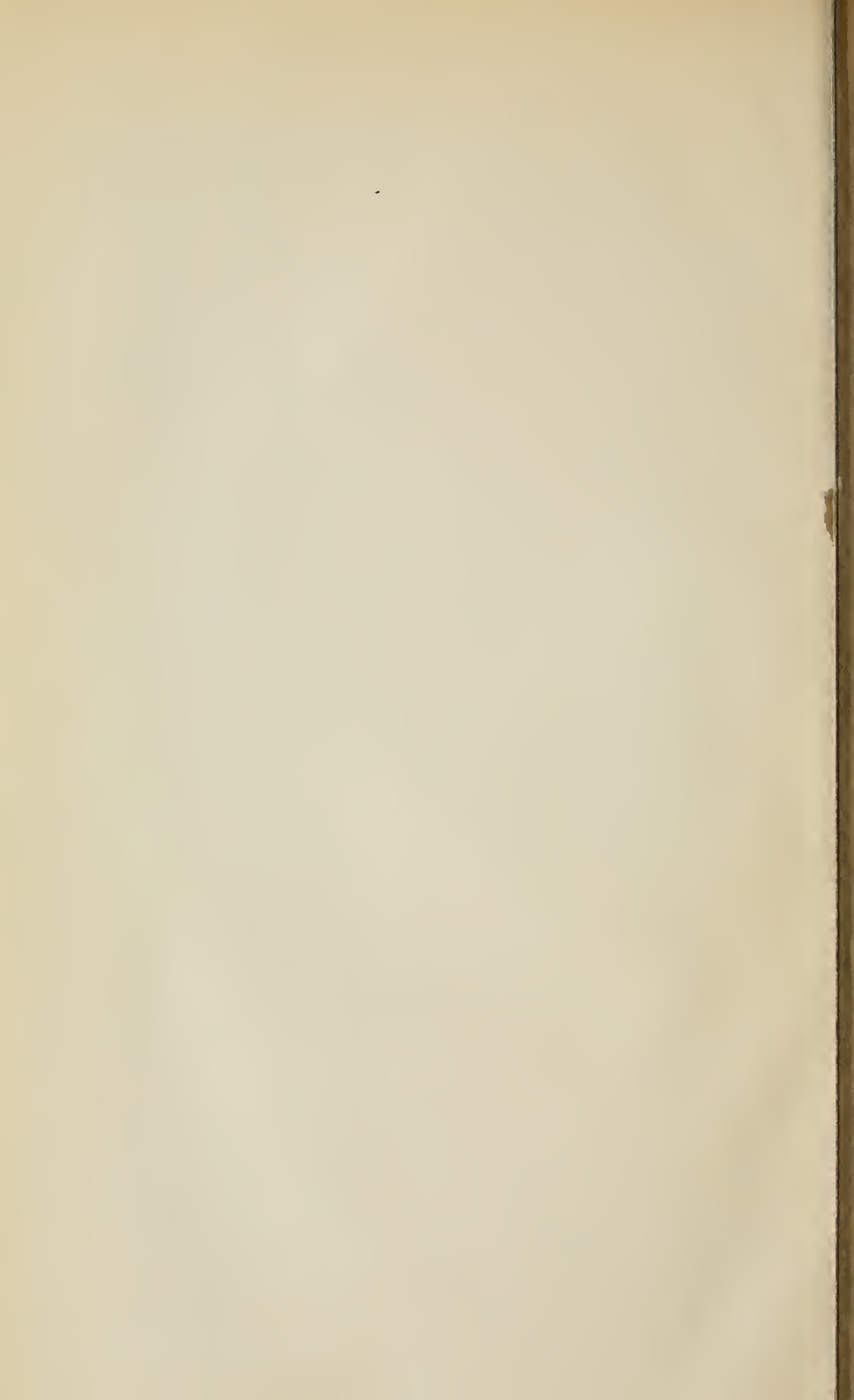
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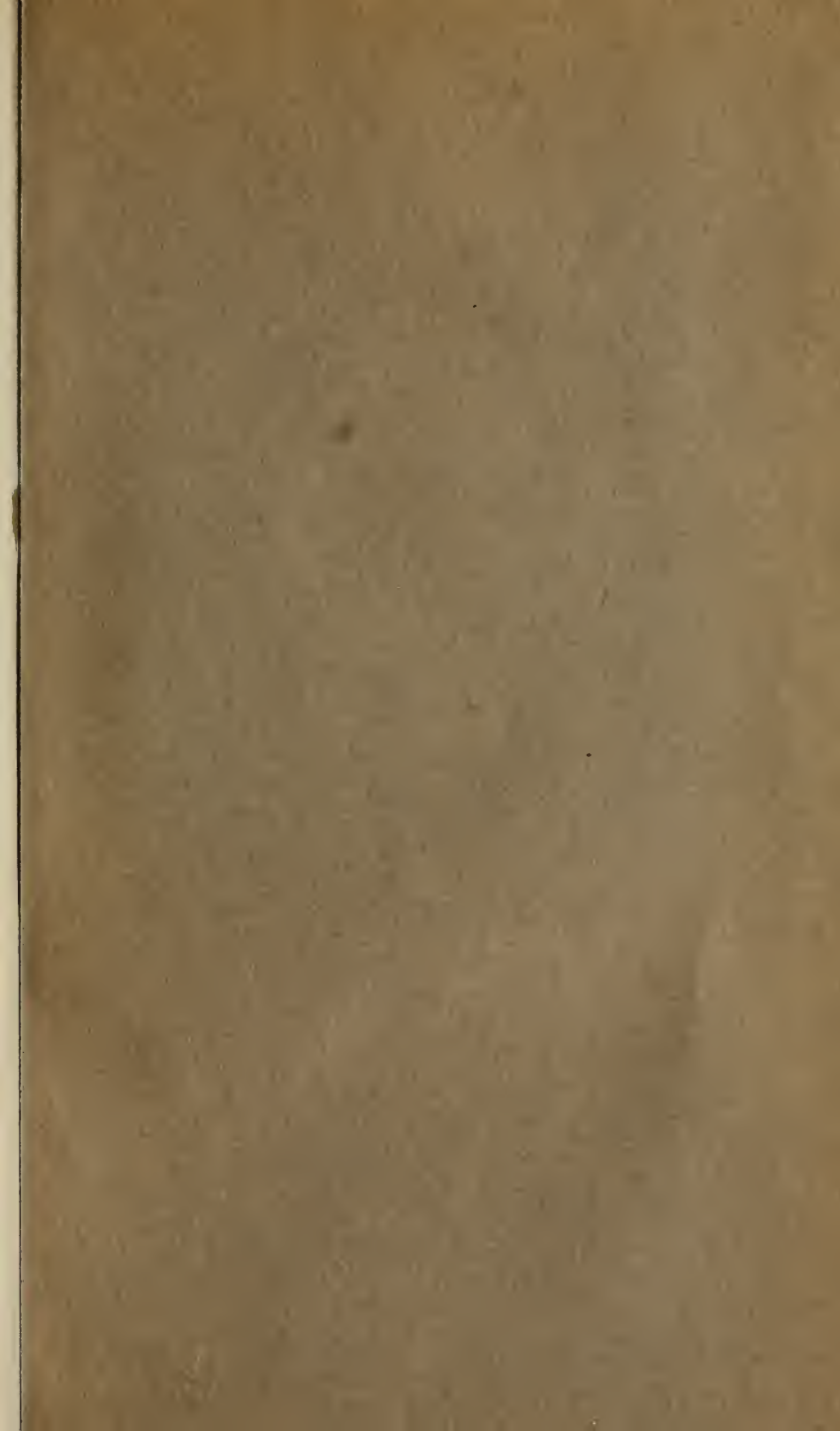
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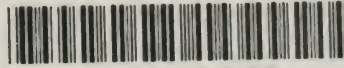
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